

# *The Brooklyn Jewish Center Review*

*February, 1951*

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1950 CENTER REPORT  
AND ANNUAL SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

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# BROOKLYN JEWISH CENTER REVIEW

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## THE LARGER MEANING OF THE U.J.A.

CONTEMPORARY history has added another New Year to the Jewish calendar. Heretofore, Jewish chronology and ritual have determined the varying dates of Rosh Hashonah as the beginning of the year. Now, February 1st, the time of the commencement of the United Jewish Appeal campaign, has in a very important manner incorporated an additional, although secular, beginning of the year for the Jews of America. At the risk of an unintended sacrilege we may well say that the additional New Year does not fall far behind the ancient annual beginning in importance.

Each year the Jews of America are called upon by the United Jewish Appeal to make contributions aggregating hundreds of millions of dollars to the cause of Israel. The nature of the response may at times be regrettable in that quotas are not fully met. Nevertheless, the Jews of America are entitled to commendation in that the amounts annually contributed are so large—so almost astronomically large—in proportion to the size of American Jewry as to merit uniform praise instead of occasional blame. No section of the American population approaches to any commensurate degree the record of American Jewry with respect to its generous response to the call of the United Jewish Appeal. Each year finds us voluntarily taxing ourselves with a self-imposed burden that by far exceeds, for instance, the annual budget of many American states.

It is a matter of interest to analyze the motives which impel American Jewry to such notable and noble acts of contribution. Some of the answers are plain upon

the record. Others, of equal and perhaps greater importance, need elucidation. When, however, upon such process of examination they are discerned, they are found to be equally creditable to us individually and collectively.

First, of course, among the stimuli acting upon the Jewish mind and conscience is the human appeal presented by the necessity of Jews in Israel and in the countries of the dispersion outside of America. Here, the ancient maxim, "Kol Yisroel Chaverim," is a summary of both cause and effect. We, living under conditions of comfort and in many cases of opulence, earn the right to call ourselves Jews only by our response to the needs of our brethren. Parenthetically, it may—indeed, it must—be stated that although the United Jewish Appeal is eleven years old, the conditions of hardship which call upon our sympathy still exist. Even now there are tent colonies in Israel. There still obtains in alarming proportion the problem of unemployment among newly immigrated Jews. Housing is lacking to a deplorable degree. Health measures are constantly complicated by the entrance into the country of Yemenite Jews and many thousands of others who still bear upon their persons and in their minds the scars of a decade of persecution.

This, the facile approach, is creditable enough. There is another explanation, less obvious and yet perhaps even more praiseworthy. The establishment of the State of Israel has been of importance to all the world not only because of the physical benefit to the people actually inhabiting the land, but to the world as a unit on a political and spiritual basis.

For many generations, men and women have striven to realize in the practices of life and government the essential concept of democracy. It has been difficult enough in all sections to approximate success in the search for the benefits of democracy. The countries of continental Europe, for instance, with a history of centuries of civilization, have not come as closely to a realization of the ultimate ideal of democracy as have we in America; and we have in many respects lagged behind our own potential. In many other sections of the earth, including the Near East of which Israel is a part, the theory of democracy is practically unknown, while the practice of it until the creation of the State of Israel was nil. It is just because Israel gives every indication of bringing to the Near East the fruits of democracy—of being in that quarter of the world a duplicate of the United States in the west—that men and women of all races and religious persuasions have joyfully hailed the emergence of the State as a free sovereignty.

It is the opinion of the writer that this unspoken thought is in the minds of many Jews at the same time that their hearts move them to participate in the United Jewish Appeal. We have been given a boundless and justifiable pride by the prospect that our people will now complete the circle of its history in the matter of this contribution to human values. Ancient Judea was the first nation in history to develop the concept of democracy. Modern Israel is the latest sovereign community to practice it; and that, be it noted, in a section of the earth where until now the concept has been totally unknown. It has been given to no other people in history to have the opportunity of thus connecting its past

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# "JUST BETWEEN OURSELVES"

"בינינו לבין עצמנו"

## An Intimate Chat Between Rabbi and Reader

### IMPROVING THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES

ONE of the interesting features about our Brooklyn Jewish Center, which was emphasized in all the addresses heard at our recent Annual Meeting, is the continuous endeavor to find new and added ways to strengthen the spirit of our religious faith in the community.

We always took pride in the work of our Junior Congregation. Every Sabbath and holiday one found a large group of youngsters assembled for worship and religious inspiration. We noticed, however, an inherent weakness in the structure of this group: we made no distinction between the very young who attended and those of adolescent age. It was the same service for all, even though the little ones were too young and mentally unprepared to derive real benefit from such a service.

Rabbi Lewittes, the teachers of our school, the Hebrew School and Religious Service Committees, are to be congratulated on the innovation they recently adopted of having two separate services—the regular Junior Congregation with the traditional religious service and the regular sermonette by our Associate Rabbis and members of the faculty, and the Children's Congregation, which meets in our spacious Dining Hall, for all children under ten years of age. The latter is under the expert leadership of one of our ablest teachers, Mrs. Evelyn Zusman, who seems to possess a special gift for understanding young children, and who immediately wins their regard and their affection. A special service has been

arranged for this group, based on their age level, of stories, songs and even Sabbath dances.

It is interesting to see how both congregations have benefited and improved by these services. The Junior Congregation has suddenly assumed a more mature character; the attendance has not suffered at all by the removal of the little ones—in fact, it has even increased. The new Children's Congregation has shown a steady and continuous growth. It started with forty youngsters, and now has almost twice as many.

What is even of greatest interest is to see the joy with which the little ones come to the service, and their smiling faces as they depart, with the warm *Shabbat Shalom* on their lips.

We feel assured that this project will help to implant in the hearts of our youngsters a new appreciation of the Sabbath and a habit of Synagogue attendance and worship which will be a lasting one.

To make it even more effective, I would venture to suggest to the mothers of these children that they accompany them to the Synagogue. While the little ones are conducting their service, the mothers could join the Sabbath worship in the main Synagogue and thus share with their children the true religious inspiration of the Sabbath. What a happy augury this would be for the future of our faith in our community if the mothers and fathers, together with their children, would establish once again the influence of Sabbath worship and Syna-

gogue attendance which can be of such inestimable value in fashioning a beautiful, meaningful and creative Jewish life in our midst.

*Israel H. Lewittes*

### NEW TRENDS IN THE REFORM TEMPLES

A QUIET revolution is taking place according to information supplied by 255 congregations. The Reform congregations are moving closer and closer toward ritual practices and observances which were not recognized by them until now. Definite traditional trends appear in connection with the marriage ceremony. About four-fifths of all Reform rabbis now permit the use of a "Chupah," the wearing of hats and the breaking of the glass. Only one-fifth of the rabbis will perform an unconditional mixed-marriage. Ninety percent of the Reform congregations now require a formal course of study by the non-Jew before conversion. And they also require an examination of the candidate on the subject matter in the course and as to his sincerity. About sixty percent of the Reform rabbis will help arrange a ritual divorce through an Orthodox rabbi, although no change has taken place in their attitude toward the validity of a civil divorce. Members of about fifty percent of the Reform congregations now use a "mohel" for the rite of circumcision, while previously practically all of them used a surgeon. About ninety percent of the members conduct Bar Mitzvah services for their girls. In about one-third of the Reform temples the organist is Jewish and in seventy percent of the temples the choir is all Jewish. The increasing acceptance by Reform congregations and their members of ritual practice and ceremonial observance is certainly a sign of our time.

—BORIS SMOLAR.

with its future for the benefit not only of itself but of millions of persons whose claim upon it is that of the common brotherhood of man.

The heroic valor, the magnificent sacrifice, the *unalloyed* devotion, the Herculean labor, the unbounded optimism, of the people of Israel are responsible in major degree for the actualities of the

present in Israel and for the prospect for the future. It is our privilege to share by financial contribution in the sum total of this magnificent new era. We should be proud and happy that the opportunity is ours and we should testify to our pride and our grateful acceptance of this partnership by maximum contribution to the United Jewish Appeal.

—WILLIAM I. SIEGEL.

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*This penetrating and bold study of a situation close to all American Jews was published in the Jerusalem "Zionist News Letter."*

## THE FALLACY OF FORECASTS IN ZIONIST AFFAIRS

By ISRAEL SCHEN

THE custom has grown in recent years of estimating, in public utterances or in print, the probable income to be yielded by the next year's fund-raising drive. It has become especially widespread in the U. S. A., where leading personalities in Zionist and Jewish life gauge the figure that may be expected almost to the last digit. This practice, which is of questionable value, was recently deprecated by the Chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, Mr. Berl Locker. And there is no doubt that his raising the matter was most timely.

This issue has two aspects: the short-term aspect of income yielded within the near future, and the long-term aspect of the Zionist approach.

Perhaps the custom of forecasting income would be less harmful if it were invariably optimistic. Unfortunately the forecasts made during the past two years have mostly been pessimistic. The effect of such prognostications upon contributors must obviously be harmful. No one is disposed to make a supreme effort in support of a venture which does not look as if it will be wholly successful, especially if those responsible for the venture have themselves cast doubts upon its prospects. If the drive appears to be losing momentum, the individual contributor will not put himself out to try and speed it up; after all, what difference can one man's additional hundred or thousand dollars make when tens, or even hundreds, of millions are involved? But if, on the other hand, the feeling has been created that the target will assuredly be attained, he will do his utmost to help attain it.

In view of the streamlined methods employed by the U.J.A., involving full utilization of artifices based on a knowledge of mass psychology, it is strange that no effective protest has been made against publicizing gloomy appraisals of future prospects. Clearly, the prospects have to be appraised by those at the head of affairs; but they should be regarded as inside information: no word should leak out to the general public. If the outlook is poor, dispositions have to be made to ensure an improvement and final success, and the requisite lessons have to be

learned from any past failures; but as far as the mass of contributors is concerned, the prospects are invariably excellent: the target will be attained.

Perhaps the simplest analogy is that of a commander launching a major, vital offensive. He and his staff officers know the risks: there is the danger of failure, or at any rate, of only partial success. But the operation has to be carried out—the very safety of the nation depends upon its outcome. Whatever the objective prospects of victory, the junior officers and men have only one thought: to win. Any vestige of doubt on their part would weaken their resolve, and then victory would be twice as hard to achieve, and infinitely more costly.

This principle applies with even greater truth today, on the threshold of the greatest financial effort that world Jewry has ever been called to make for Israel. The objective circumstances are growing more and more difficult as the world situation becomes more threatening. Today it may prove harder to raise the vast sums required than it would have been a year ago. Nor will the task be rendered easier by a general feeling, engendered by rash forecasts made in the recent past, that the United Appeal in America is on the decline. It is earnestly to be hoped that from now on the practice of making public forecasts will be discontinued, and that the General Staff will convince itself of victory, so that it may bring greater conviction to the rank and file.

But there is also the long-term, the Zionist aspect. Zionism is not only a matter of one fund-raising effort, however mighty, but of efforts in several directions, which must be maintained without relaxation until the national restoration is complete. Zionism always has been, and must always continue to be, founded upon unshakable faith. That faith is incompatible with misgivings about the success of any Zionist activity. It may not always seem rational in terms of immediate logic, but it is eminently rational in terms of ultimate, historical logic, as events have clearly demonstrated. Herzl's faith in the Jewish State has been amply vindicated; yet how unrealistic it

appeared fifty-three years ago. But if Herzl had not had that faith, and if he had not succeeded in implanting it in others, would there have been a State of Israel today?

If firm resolve could lead to the national rehabilitation of a scattered people, which was daily becoming more diffuse and disunited, culminating in the establishment of a State, it can surely achieve a more modest objective: a sizable migration to Israel of Jews from the English-speaking countries.

Here we have a situation analogous in some respects to the fund-raising effort. Various pundits of the Zionist movement appraise the future of immigration from the English-speaking countries and publicly proclaim their belief that in the present circumstances it cannot amount to much. Some of them go so far as to base their assumptions on the laws of history: no mass migration, they say, has ever taken place in the absence of compelling external pressures. Admittedly, history is on their side, though to assert that this law is immutable, is perhaps to ascribe too great a degree of certainty to a science which is still distinguished by a lack of precision. Who can with absolute certainty gauge the future course of human history on the basis of what we know today? And who can be absolutely certain that only compelling external pressures, at any rate of the kind hitherto experienced, will move English-speaking Jews to come to Israel in substantial numbers?

But even if we assume that this evaluation is correct, is it any wiser to proclaim it in public utterances or in print than it is to indulge in pessimistic forecasts of the results of fund-raising drives? Are such statements likely to encourage Jews to come to Israel, or are they more likely to engender the feeling, that in the absence of a favorable climate there is little prospect of summer's being made by a few individual swallows?

Such appraisals should be confined to the Zionist leadership and not widely disseminated. They should rather be made

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# GRANDFATHER AND CALAMITY JANE

By THEODORE KATZ

THE summer was soon over and already the air had a tinge of sharpness in it, a prelude to the colder days soon to come. Although the leaves were still green they seemed weak and one would expect them to sail earthward at any moment; the branches of the mulberry bushes were showing a scarcity of their small green leaves. Dust gathered into little swirls that went careening through the park.

"Hurry, Zeydeh Avraham," said a small boy as he pulled his aged grandfather along the twisting and turning walk. The boy's chubby fingers grasped a small sail-plane, and he tightly pressed it against his breast as the wind tried to snatch it from him.

"What's the hurry?" said the old man, breathing hard and laughing at the same time.

"I want to fly my airplane."

"So you want to fly your airplane, but remember that your zeydeh is too old to fly. Let me sit here." The old man sat down on a bench and waited a moment to catch his breath.

"But zeydeh," said the little boy, "don't you want to see it go?"

"Of course I do," he said, patting the boy on the head. "I'll watch you from here."

"Don't you even want to fly it?" said the boy, pushing the plane into his grandfather's hands.

"It is a nice airplane," said zeydeh as he hefted it to feel its weight, and then pointed it into the wind as though he were going to throw it.

"Throw it, zeydeh! Throw it!"

"No." He gave the airplane back to his grandson. "I'm too old to fly it."

"Aw—you are not," said the boy, leaning against the man's legs.

"No?" zeydeh said, and he pinched the boy's cheek. "What would people say if they saw an old man with a beard running after an airplane in the park?"

"They'd be jealous," said the boy. "I'll bet they'd be awful jealous."

"Maybe. But what would they say? They would say look at that crazy old fool. He's in his second childhood."

"What do you care what they'd say? You'd be flying the airplane."

"Yes, I'd be flying the airplane," said the grandfather, looking over the boy's shoulder at the green lawn enclosed by trees along its perimeter; large clouds seemed to touch the tops of the trees as they slowly drifted and tumbled over

each other like dancing clowns; and the small lake caught pieces of sunlight that flowed into fragile spectrum-colored flowers and soon burst into nothing but childhood memories.

"Here, zeydeh," said the boy and he held the airplane out to his grandfather.

"No," the old man said, patting the boy on his head. "You go fly your airplane, I will smoke my pipe."

"All right, zeydeh."

The little boy ran out onto the lawn and threw the airplane up into the wind. It was carried high overhead, soared down, looped, and smoothly glided through the air. The boy ducked out of the way as it came in for a landing, and when it hit the ground he ran after it, proudly waved to his grandfather, and threw it into the air again.

The old man laughed. He removed his glasses and very carefully polished them with the corner of his handkerchief. He saw a man wave to him and then walk towards his bench. He quickly replaced his glasses to see who it was. It was Mendel, walking in a slow and easy way, and leaning quite heavily on his cane.

"Good morning, Avraham," said Mendel, sitting next to him on the bench.

"Good morning, Mendel. And how do you feel this morning?"

"Terrible!" said Mendel, and he shook his head from side to side. "My back hurts worse than yesterday and this morning—this morning I woke up with a cramp in my leg."

"That's too bad," sympathized Avraham.

"And how do you feel?"

"Fine," said Avraham. He took out his pipe and carefully filled it with tobacco.

"Still smoking," commented Mendel, shaking his head.

"Just a little."

"I don't understand it," said Mendel. "For so many years we have used the same doctor. Doctor Litz tells me not to smoke—and you he lets smoke. I don't understand it."

Avraham laughed and ran his hand along the length of his beard; the ends of his beard were yellow not only be-

cause of time, but because of tobacco stain. "He's the doctor and he knows what he's doing."

"It's not fair," said Mendel, staring at Avraham's pipe.

"Zeydeh!" said the boy, running up to him, his sail-plane in his hand. "Zeydeh!"

"Yes, yes. What is all the excitement?"

"What makes an airplane fly?"

"Don't you say hello to your neighbors?" said Mendel.

"Hello," greeted the boy.

"That's the trouble with youth," Mendel said, "no respect."

"The boy was excited, Mendel."

"That's another trouble with youth. Always excited."

"What is it you wanted to know?" asked Avraham, turning away from Mendel.

"What makes an airplane fly?"

"That's a very difficult question to answer."

"But you know, don't you? You know what makes an airplane fly, don't you?"

"Ha!" laughed Mendel.

"Of course," said Avraham. He pulled the boy up onto his lap, straightened his little beanie cap, and thought a long time before speaking. "This is why an airplane flies," he said, as he took the airplane from the boy's hand and pointed to the wing.

"I don't understand, zeydeh."

"Be a bit patient and I will help you to understand. When you throw the plane into the air this wing separates the air into two parts. Now—are you listening?"

"Yes, zeydeh."

"Good. It separates the air into two parts. Now, because of the shape of the wing there is more air on the bottom of the wing than on the top. This extra air holds up the plane."

"Gee, zeydeh, you know everything."

Avraham laughed, pinched the boy's cheek, and gave him back his airplane. The boy ran out to the lawn and threw

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**L**ITTLE attention if any has been paid by Jewish students to Victor Hugo's portraits of two eminent Jews in his first and last published plays probably because he achieved in drama less permanent and brilliant results than in his poetry and fiction. Not even Cecil Roth, the biographer of Menasseh ben Israel, lets us know that his hero figures in the play "Cromwell," published by Hugo in 1827 when he was only twenty-five years old. This is a very long play and was not produced. It is known more for its preface of announcing Hugo's break with the classical traditions in French literature. Nor does Matthew Josephson, in dealing with the play in his biography of Hugo, refer to the character of Menasseh ben Israel in it.

Although in "Cromwell" young Hugo abandoned the monarchist Catholic principles he had sponsored in his early poems, and henceforward stood in the vanguard of the champions of democracy and pure theism, he had not yet attained full impartiality in demands for religious toleration, and he was still subservient to convention in drawing outworn stage types. In Menasseh he presented a false distorted portrait, the typical stage Jew that was prevalent in the eighteenth century.

Hugo, however, made amends, just as Dickens tried to atone for the injustice he had done to the Jews through his character, Bill Fagin, in "Oliver Twist" by drawing a faultless Jew, Mr. Riah, in "Our Mutual Friend," though unfortunately, Riah was a mere dummy.

In 1882, when Hugo was eighty years old, he published a play "Torquemada" (also unproduced) in which he showed deep sympathy for the Jews in Spain before their exile and in which he shows a noble Grand Rabbi, whom he calls Moses ben Habib, offering a large sum of money to the king and queen of Spain to stay the burning of some Jews condemned by the Inquisition and avert the decree of exile. Of course this scene had a different protagonist, for it was Isaac ben Jehudah Abrabanel, in the service of Ferdinand and Isabella, who appeared before them in an effort to halt the decree of exile. "Torquemada" was the first play Hugo wrote since he gave up playwriting with his trilogy, "The Burgraves," nearly forty years previously.

Hugo's dramas have been overshadowed almost completely by his other work despite the fact that at least four of them

## *The Stories of Two Hugo Plays Dealing With Jewish Characters*

# LIKE DICKENS, VICTOR HUGO MISUNDERSTOOD JEWS

By ALBERT MORDELL

have been made into librettos for operas, the best known of which undoubtedly is Verdi's "Rigoletto," based on "Le Roi's Amuse." Verdi also composed an opera based on Hugo's "Hernani," and Donizetti used "Lucrezia Borgia." Hugo's "Esmeralda" was made into operas by at least three different composers. All this was in the lifetime of Hugo, and it should be remembered that his playwrighting period lasted only some fifteen years during his early career, from "Cromwell" (1827) to "The Burgraves" (1843). He was considered a failure in playwrighting though "Hernani," in 1830, made literary history and greatly increased his fame.

We have then two plays by Hugo in which a Jew figured and it is interesting to contrast his treatment of them. Both plays rank high as literature, and Swinburne called "Torquemada" one of the greatest masterpieces of the master poets of the nineteenth century. Yet Josephson does not even mention it in his biography.

Fortunately, both plays are accessible in English, in verse translations, and "Cromwell" is also available in a prose translation by I. G. Burnham (1896), included in a collected edition of the works issued in Philadelphia by George Barrie & Son. This version is even more valuable because it contains a translation of the famous Preface.

The action of "Cromwell" begins in 1657, a year before the Protector died and five months before Menasseh's death towards the end of that year. Menasseh was hardly necessary for the main plot of the play and one wonders why he was introduced altogether. He first appears in the seventeenth scene of the third act, entitled "Fools" or "Jesters." We need not accept Swinburne's evaluation that in this play Hugo in his comic scenes equalled Moliere and excelled Corneille. Swinburne sought to show how the comic scenes were welded into the structure of the play and he particularly mentioned this scene, which takes place in White-

hall, London. We have almost exclusively a dialogue between Cromwell and Menasseh. The latter, as in all plays where Jews were formerly introduced, is not referred to by his name by Cromwell or others, but as "the Jew." Thurlow is present but Cromwell orders him to go without reaching distance while young Lord Rochester, who is asleep, is left undisturbed. Menasseh is bringing Cromwell a large bag of money obtained from a captured Swedish brig. And then we have the first soliloquy of Menasseh in which, like all villains in the old plays, he boasts of his own villainy. He admits he cannot deceive Cromwell, the Puritan, as he does some on the other side, the Cavaliers, from whom he steals money and lends it back to them at twelve per cent, "For to steal from Christians is a meritorious deed." Cromwell calls Menasseh a face of purgatory. Menasseh tells Cromwell that an astrologer was just hanged in London and Cromwell charges him with being an astrologer. Menasseh falsely confesses he is, though he knows he is violating the Jewish law by pretending to be one, and he offers to read Cromwell's future. Cromwell reflects on the man's dual role as a spy for him and as an astrologer. Menasseh repeats his offer. It appears Cromwell believes in astrology and is perplexed that this "impure miscreant Jew" should be able to wield powers he himself has not, and to predict Cromwell's future, about which he is much concerned. Then he addresses Menasseh in a loud voice. He wants to know his future, for a kindly bee is buzzing in his bonnet. Menasseh contemptuously addresses him and insults the foremost man in England from whom he has come to seek favors. What an uncircumcized person like Cromwell to be so presumptuous, Menasseh exclaims. He himself has labored long and hard to attain the art he now possesses; he has even made the dead on gallows stammer a few sounds from the celestial alphabet. He berates Cromwell for wishing to have the



powers that he, a hoary old man, has acquired. As a matter of fact he was younger than Cromwell who then was fifty-eight in 1657 while Menasseh was fifty-three. Cromwell demands a forecast of the future on pain of death, implicitly believing Menasseh can reveal it, and threatens him with a dagger. Then he asks for the meaning of a vision he once had in which he heard the words, "Honor to King Cromwell!" and saw a head hanging from the headsman's hand, the head of a living king. Menasseh remarks that nothing more wonderful than this vision is recorded in *Toldos Jeschut*, misspelling the name (by adding the letter "t") of the famous libelous Jewish life of Jesus. Cromwell wants to be king in succession to Charles I, whom he caused to be executed, and he hopes that Menasseh will tell him his ambition will be realized. Menasseh does not give him a definite answer, and after indulging in some magic verses to dispel evil spirits, he tells him he is in peril. Meanwhile Lord Rochester, who was thought to be asleep, turns over. Menasseh expresses the belief that Rochester has overheard the talk between him and Cromwell. Cromwell determines to despatch Rochester but hesitates. Menasseh bids him "Strike, strike, Thou couldst not do a more praiseworthy deed." (By a poetic license Hugo introduces the ten-year-old second earl instead of his father.) Menasseh wants to see a Christian dispatched by a Christian hand. Cromwell finally dismisses him and tells him he will die if he reveals what took place during the meeting, and he calls on Thurlow to save him from the Jew.

The fifth scene of the fourth act opens with Menasseh soliloquizing that there is no difference between Puritans and Cavaliers, between Charles the Second and Cromwell; they are all Christians, whom he hates. Cromwell sees him and calls him a "Hebrew dog" (though Cromwell actually once said that he would rather see Mohammedanism in his country than anyone persecuted). Menasseh further soliloquizes that he does not care which parties win or whether Cromwell is killed or not. He hopes the blood of the Christians will be shed in rivers. Menasseh then points, looks through his glass at the stars and reflects that he might have exacted from Ormonde, the first Duke of that

name, twice as much interest. Hearing him, Cromwell refers to him as "an impious Jew," a carrion crow, his own spy, and yet banker to the Cavaliers. Menasseh mistakes Cromwell for a royalist sentinel and tells him he is happy over the approach of Cromwell's fall, when the sentinel undoubtedly will be made a corporal. Menasseh continues his attack on Cromwell and says he is now to expiate his edict against the Jews. (Did not Hugo know history and was he unaware that Cromwell was seeking to abrogate the ancient edict?)

Menasseh complains to the imaginary sentinel that when he robs a Swedish brig Cromwell takes most of the spoil, and that Cromwell once fined him because he had taken some paltry interest. He calls Cromwell a monster who demands that all pleasure in life be rooted out. Menasseh offers then to tell the supposed sentinel his fortune, and when he takes his hand he recognizes Cromwell. His embarrassment is acute.

Cromwell now also learns from a purse handed to him by Sir William Murray that his own son Richard was planning to kill him. He makes Menasseh take a seat on a stone bench and threatens to kill him if he says another word. He soon exposes the conspirators and as he points to Menasseh he says he will hang them all, but Menasseh a little lower down. He calls him a "nauseous Jew." The prisoners are led away and Cromwell now assumes the kingly role. In the end he pardons all the conspirators including Menasseh, the condition being that the latter pay a bill due Barebone. He gets the money on the spot and remarks "Tis dear, dear."

One wonders first how Hugo could have taken such license with the character of Cromwell, the friend of the Jews. But Hugo did a greater wrong to the memory of a great scholar and noble character. There was little excuse for Hugo's libelous portrayal. He should have read at least one or two of Menasseh's pamphlets, certainly "The Humble Addresses" to Cromwell (1665) in which Menasseh said it was a greater sin according to Jewish law for a Jew to rob or defraud a stranger than a Jew, and defended the Jews from the charge of being usurers.

Hugo not only ignored, but belied all of Menasseh's activities in England. While here he was honored and enter-

tained by various cultured people among them Professor Ralph Cudworth, author of the famous work against Atheism, "The Intellectual System of the Universe"; and the Countess of Ranelagh, and probably her brother, the great Robert Boyle. Hugo does not seem to know his villain was an outstanding scholar and author of books in Spanish and English.

Hugo injured the Jewish people by lies and malicious libels. It may be said this was not compensated for by the innovations he sought to bring in dramatic technique in his Preface, making sport of the compliance by playwrights with at least two unities in drama, of time and place, and in which he pleaded for the right of the dramatist to deal with the grotesque. Fortunately, the play was not acted. It is said it was written or completed by Hugo at the request of the tragedian Talma, but Talma died and Hugo published the play. This story of Talma's request has been doubted.

Hugo's malicious invention of the tale about Menasseh runs counter to any liberties a poet may take with history. The facts of Menasseh's visit to England have been set forth several times and retold by Cecil Roth. Hugo does not state that Menasseh came to England virtually at Cromwell's desire, that Cromwell labored and fought for the admission of Jews to England and was thwarted only by popular protest.

Cromwell believed strongly in religious toleration. He did everything he could to make the Council which met in 1655 favor readmission of Jews to England, and he prepared the way by having it put on record that there was nothing against the law to gain this object. He chose members for the Council who he knew believed in religious toleration. But the clergy and business men, who feared Jewish competition, were hostile. He finally closed the conference without letting them vote. Menasseh who had published his book advocating admission of Jews into England, "The Hope of Israel," spent two years in England, from September 1655 on, and met Cromwell several times. He went to England after the failure of the mission of his son and nephew, and printed his "Humble Addresses to the Lord Protector" which resulted in the Whitehall Conference in December. Menasseh also wrote "Vindiciae Judaeorum," a reply to William A. Prynne's "Short Demurrer to the Jewes



long discontinued Remitter into England." Cromwell later gave Menasseh a pension of one hundred pounds. After his son soon died he left England (September 1587) taking his body with him.

It was especially wicked for Hugo to distort Menasseh's character at this time because the Jews suffered certain disabilities in France which were not wiped out till three years later, when Louis Philippe came to the throne. Hugo helped to keep in vogue the unpleasantness associated with the name Jew.

Forty-five years later Hugo was famous, the author of "Les Misérables." He had become an enemy of the Church and had been exiled because he opposed the dictator Napoleon III. In 1882 he published his play "Torquemada." Let us first dispose of the anachronism of his substituting Moses ben Habib, Grand Rabbi, for Isaac Abrabanel, the protagonist. It is hard to say which Habib Hugo had in mind, though he was wrong in substituting any of the Habibs. There was a Moses ibn Habib who, as a Palestinian rabbi of the seventeenth century is of course ruled out; there was the grammarian Moses B. Shem-Tob Ibn Habib, who was a contemporary of the period of the Jewish exile and who called himself Sefardi because he had been a native of Lisbon but lived in the Levant and Italy. He too may be eliminated. We can also exclude Levi ben Jacob Ibn Habib, the Hebrew scholar and son of Jacob Ibn Habib, author of the "En Yaakov," because he was only twelve years old at the time of the exile, though born in Spain. We are now reduced to the view that Hugo had Jacob Ibn Habib himself in mind and wrongly gave him the name of Moses. In 1492 Jacob was only 32 but had not yet written his "En Yaakov" and was not, as Hugo describes him, Chief Rabbi.

The historical situation used by Hugo in "Torquemada" is summarized by Graetz in his history of the Jews. We learn from him that Isaac Abrabanel, after the expulsion edict was announced, appeared before the king and queen of Spain and offered a large sum of money to remove the edict of exile. The king, Ferdinand, was about to yield when Torquemada rushed in claiming that Judas Iscariot had sold Christ for thirty pieces of silver and the king was about to sell him for three hundred thousand ducats. That ended the matter.

According to another account, the offer was thirty thousand ducats or about 68,400. The tale of Torquemada's entrance may not be authentic. In any case, Abrabanel went with his people into exile.

Let us now take up Hugo's powerful scene, so poetic and noble that one forgives him the absurd anachronism of having the wrong person make the appeal to the king.

"Torquemada" is a play in two parts. In the first, made up of two acts, Moses does not yet appear. The second part is in three acts divided into scenes. (It should be borne in mind that scenes in French drama are not numbered or designated because of change of locality, as in English drama, but begin with the introduction of new characters.) Moses appears at the very beginning of the second act of the second part but his plea is made in the third scene. The place is the hall of the old Moorish palace in Seville, the city where the Inquisition carried out the *auto da fes*, or burnings of the "infidels." The Moors had been already defeated and were gone. In a Hall of the Council is a table with thirty rows of gold crowns piled high and thick, and forming a square on a large silver dish. Moses and the Marquis of Fuentel enter through a secret door. Moses enlists the Marquis' aid, which the latter gives, because his grandson, Don Sancho, who wishes to marry a girl the king loves, is forced into a monkhood. The scenes show that Moses also wants to save a hundred aged Jews condemned to

the stake. Moses soon leaves and the king enters. The Marquis argues with the king, who is interested in two things—the Jews' money and the girl Don Sancho loves. The Marquis piques the royal vanity by saying that Torquemada, the Inquisitor, is the real king. He names some alleged practices of the Jews for which he protests they are unjustly condemned to be burned.

The Marquis continues to play upon the king's inferiority in power to Torquemada and even attacks the church. But he is mainly concerned with his own plans. Soon the Duke of Dalava announces the coming of deputies of the Jews.

Of this scene Swinburne wrote, "Terror and pity never rose higher, never found utterance more sublime and piercing, in any work by any poet of the world, than here in the scene of the supplication of the Jews, and the ensuing scene of the triumph of Torquemada." The king actually orders the decrees for exile annulled and commands that the Jewish prisoners be freed.

Unfortunately, Torquemada enters, and he also makes a powerful speech in which we can detect Hugo is hated of the church, of clericalism, intolerance, discrimination and persecution, and in which he satirically presents what are specious arguments in favor of the Inquisition.

It should certainly not be considered that I am making an unfavorable estimate of Hugo as a writer because of his

(Continued on page 23)

## THE WAY OF THE "35"

ONE of the most poignant episodes of Israel's War of Liberation occurred in 1948 when 35 members of the Palmach made a daring and desperate attempt to reach the besieged Etsyon Bloc and were ambushed on the way. All were killed.

Almost three years to a day since the tragic death of the "35", a living memorial was erected to them, in the form of a new settlement overlooking the fields where the ambush took place. Netiv Ha-Lamed Heh, "Way of the 35," as the kibbutz is named, was founded on 5,000 dunams on Jewish National Fund land in the presence of representatives of the Government, the Army, the Jewish National Fund, and the bereaved parents of the heroic band.

Situated in the Judean Hills, it overlooks the valley where, according to tra-

dition, the famous duel between David and Goliath took place, and, at a distance, the ill-fated Etsyon Bloc can be seen. Kibbutz Netiv Ha-Lamed Heh is composed of youngsters—veterans of the Palmach, and members of a new immigrant group of Youth Aliya. The land is good, and promises fruitful harvests. The dairy numbers 36 head, and the settlement also has a poultry run and flock of sheep. The water problem has not yet been solved, but borings are being made nearby, and it is hoped that they will bring good results.

At the foundation ceremony, 35 cypresses were planted in memory of the soldiers, and a memorial service was held the following morning in the military cemetery on Mt. Herzl.

# NEWS OF THE CENTER

## Rabbi Abraham P. Bloch Guest Preacher This Friday

This Friday, February 23rd, at our Late Friday Night Lecture Service which begins at 8:30 o'clock, we shall be privileged to have as our guest preacher, Rabbi Abraham P. Bloch, who will speak on the subject "The Mid-Century in Jewish Life — A Review and Some Predictions." Rabbi Bloch is a neighbor of ours, being the spiritual leader of Temple Petach Tikvah at Rochester Avenue. He is active in many communal endeavors and has served the spiritual needs of our community since he came to our borough. The subject of his sermon should be of special interest to all who are concerned with the future of Jewish life in America. You and your friends are cordially invited to attend.

Cantor Sauler will lead in the congregational singing and render a vocal selection.

## Advance Notice

Next Friday, March 2nd, at our Friday Night Lecture Services Rabbi Saltzman will speak on the subject "How Does Conservative Judaism Answer the Needs of Our Young People Today."

## Sabbath Services

Friday evening service at 5 p.m.

Kindling of Candles 5:20 p.m.

Sabbath Services, "Ki Tisa"—Exodus 30.11-34.35 Prophets—I Kings 18.1-39 will commence at 8:30 p.m.

Mincha services at 5 p.m.

Rabbi Saltzman will preach on the weekly portion of the Torah.

The lecture in Yiddish this Saturday afternoon will be delivered by Mr. Jacob S. Doner at 4:15 p.m. His subject will be "The Sabbath As A Philosophy."

## Daily Services

Morning services at 7 and 8 o'clock.

Mincha services at 5 p.m.

## Young Married Group

The Young Married Group is currently engaged in enthusiastic planning for our Third Annual Dance and Entertainment to be held on Saturday evening, April 28th. All our members and their guests who attended last year's affair well remember what a great success it was and what wonderful rave notices we received.

It is difficult to improve on a superlative performance, however, this year again under the excellent chairmanship of Alvin Jeffer, an attempt to surpass last year's program is promised. Marvin Blickstein will again furnish his beautiful music and our own Mr. Kotimsky will once more feed us most delicious refreshments. Professional entertainment will round up a very well-planned evening—dress will be optional and admission will be \$7.50 per couple, the proceeds of which will be distributed among several worthy Jewish charities. Future bulletins will have more further details and will notify you when tickets will be available. So, reserve the date—engage your baby sitter now and prepare for a most delightful and gala evening with the Young Married Group on Saturday, April 28th.

## Junior Club Activities

On January 27th, Rochelle Frankel, the chief Scout of Palestine, addressed the Junior Clubs on the activities of the Scouts in Israel. She described their contribution to the development of the State of Israel and gave an account of their training. A lively discussion in which the members participated, followed the talk.

On February 3rd a movie entitled "The House in the Desert" was shown to the Junior Clubs and on February 11th, the members of the clubs discussed the achievements recently made in the State of Israel. The meeting of February 24th will be devoted to the discussion of "Brotherhood Week" and the significance of the Interfaith Movement was stressed.

Tu B'Shvat was observed by the junior clubs. The members discussed the significance of the holiday and how it is observed in Israel. Appropriate refreshments were served.

The athletic activities, the arts and crafts projects of the Candlelites and Vivaltes rounded up the month's activities.

On January 20th the Vivaltes were hosts at a party to which the members of the Shomrim were invited. The members of both clubs had a most enjoyable evening.

## Young Folks League Calendar

Tues., Feb. 27th—Celebration of "Brotherhood Week." Speakers will in-

clude Catholic, Protestant and Jewish Chaplains. Cdr. Joseph C. Canty, CHC, U. S. Navy will be the Catholic representative. CDR. Sidney H. Shears, CHC, U. S. Navy will be the Protestant Chaplain. The Jewish Chaplain will be Lt. Col. Aryah Lev, ORC.

Tues., Mar. 13th—This evening has been set aside as Cabaret Night—an informal evening of square dancing and country style fun.

## Interest Groups

*Oneg Shabbat*—Following the weekly Friday Night Lecture Services.

*Bowling Group*—Sunday afternoon, Feb. 25th—Clarkson Bowling Academy, Clarkson and New York Avenues.

*Folk Dance Group*—Wed. evening, Feb. 28th at the Center.

## The Center Academy

Following up studies of Israel, the two upper grades, accompanied by their teachers made a trip to the Jewish Museum to see the exhibit, "The First Million." The visit gave the boys and girls a graphic picture of the rebuilding of Israel from the Biltm to our day. The sound movie, "Operation Magic Carpet," which showed the transfer into Israel of the entire Jewish population of Yemen, moved the children deeply.

An article about the Center Academy appeared in the Yiddish daily *The Day*. It was written by Irene Bush Steinbock, head of the Hebrew Department of the school. Miss Bush pointed out the unique contribution which the Center Academy made to the Jewish education since it was the first school to introduce a modern progressive approach and the activity programs into Jewish studies. The article also touched upon the initial difficulties the Academy had to overcome in organizing a type of school which was novel in the Jewish field and which later served as a model for similar institutions.

The students of the Center Academy have gladly accepted the invitation of the Center Hebrew School to plant a forest in Israel jointly in the name of Judge Emanuel Greenberg, President of the Center. The proceeds of this year's Jewish National Fund drive are to be devoted to this purpose.

# PAGING SISTERHOOD!

*The coming festival of Purim recalls the heroism of that noble daughter of Israel, Esther. Sisterhood women, mindful of her indomitable spirit, use the opportunities given them to serve their people through the home, synagogue and community. They are active in UJA drives, in appeals for funds for the Jewish Theological Seminary, and in the Red Cross and March of Dimes campaigns. We are justifiably proud of our Sisterhood members and applaud their efforts and cooperation.*

SARAH KLINGHOFFER,  
President.

## Institute Day, January 29th

The enrichment, stimulation, enjoyment, dignity and scope of our Second Annual Institute Day was another milestone in the annals of Sisterhood. The central theme of the Symposium, "Jewish Influence on World Culture," renewed our pride in our heritage and brought illumination on the contributions which the Jewish people have made to the cultural betterment of the world. Though the day was a wet one, about 700 women, members and invited guests attended. They gained inspiration from the moving prayer offered by Shirley Gluckstein in the morning, the magnificent and intelligent survey of American Affairs presented by Jeanette Richman, the interesting and comprehensive account by the author, Leo W. Schwarz, of the contribution of Jewish Literature, commencing with the Bible, to knowledge and culture, and, as a prelude to a handsome luncheon, the fervent "motzi," the prayer for the breaking of bread, spoken by Ganya Spinrad.

The afternoon session, resuming at 1:30, after a happy and festive social hour, commenced with the singing of the National anthem and Hatikvah by our own Cantor Sauler, a prayer by Mary Kahn, invoking, with much dignity, the continued blessings of the Almighty in our efforts, an inspired message, in absentia, by Rabbi Levinthal, and a charming greeting by the chairman for the afternoon, Bea Schaeffer. After a brief explanation of the purpose and plan of this Second Annual Institute Day by

our President, Sarah Klinghoffer, Rabbi Saltzman, as moderator, took charge of the remainder of the program. Mr. Bernard Jaffe, science authority and winner of the Bacon Award for his book, "Crucibles," furnished facts and statistics on Jewish contribution to the world of science, stating that out of 150 winners of the Nobel prize in the last fifty years, 20 were Jewish. For the impact of Jewish music as a force for good in the cultural scene, our Music Director, Sholom Secunda, proved a delight and an exhaustive encyclopedia. His revelations regarding the ancestry of famous personalities on the concert stage, in the opera and in the theatre were a veritable capsule course in musical history, and the artists, Ramy Shevelov, Israeli violinist, and Doris Siegel, soprano, who assisted him, provided immeasurable pleasure to the audience, which continued to be thrilled with the program as it advanced to the charming Temima Gezari, art instructor for the Jewish Education Committee and the Jewish Theological Seminary, whose plea for appreciation of realism in the new Israeli art was a most eloquent one.

An appraisal of Institute Day is hardly possible in such limited space, since countless compliments were showered upon our committee. Our morning chairman, Sarah Epstein, called away for personal reasons, was unable to preside. Rosalind Bady, chairman of luncheon arrangements, with her most efficient and co-operative staff, created a veritable banquet amidst the bower of flowers which decorated our dining-room so beautifully. Our ushers, under the leadership of Rose Bromberg, directed our guests to the various luncheon and conference rooms. Sisterhood is marching on, always making progress and widening ever its interests.

## Dr. Evelyn Garfiel Gives Lecture Series

All Sisterhood women, as well as women in other groups in the Center and the Community, are urged to subscribe for the interesting three-lecture course on "Marriage and the Family, from the Jewish Point of View," to be given by the noted scholar, Dr. Evelyn Garfiel, on Thursdays, March 15, 22, and 29, from

1:15 to 3:00 P.M. Price for series, \$1.00. Make your reservations with Lil Lowenfeld, Hattie Roth or Sarah Klinghoffer.

## Kiddush to Junior Congregation

Mr. and Mrs. Morris Gorelik will sponsor a kiddush to the children in honor of their son's Bar Mitzvah, on March 17th.

## Cheer Fund Contributions

Mrs. Claire Mitrani—in memory of Kobie Klinghoffer; Mrs. Lil Zakhem—in memory of Kobie Klinghoffer; Mrs. Lil Lowenfeld—in memory of Kobie Klinghoffer; Mrs. Sarah Klinghoffer—in memory of her dear brother-in-law, Kobie Klinghoffer; Mrs. Sarah Klinghoffer—for the speedy recovery of Mrs. Emanuel Greenberg.

## Torah Luncheon, Wednesday, March 14th

Make immediate reservations for our Annual Torah Luncheon on Wednesday, March 14th. Chairman Sarah Kushner, and co-chairman Bea Schaeffer and Rose Bromberg have planned an elaborate luncheon as well as a fine, stimulating program. The guest speaker will be Dr. Simon Greenberg, Provost of the Jewish Theological Seminary and Executive Director of the United Synagogue of America, and soprano Mascha Benya. The proceeds will be used to assist the Jewish Theological Seminary.

## Calendar of Events

Monday, February 26th—General Meeting. Refreshments served at 1 P.M. Attractive program featuring a dramatization of Eternal Light script, "My Brother's Brother," by Sisterhood Players, with Cantor William Sauler, and Sholom Secunda. Also, Aviva Choral Ensemble, led by Naftale Frankel.

Wednesday, March 14—Torah Luncheon, 12:30.

Thursday, March 15—1st in Lecture Series, Dr. Evelyn Garfiel.

Thursday, March 22—2nd in Lecture Series, Dr. Evelyn Garfiel.

Friday, March 23—Sisterhood Conduct Services. Subject, "Opportunities and Responsibilities of Jewish Women."

Monday, March 26—Second Annual Jewish Women of Achievement program. Citations to be given leaders of National Jewish Women's Organizations.

Thursday, March 29—Last in lecture series by Dr. Evelyn Garfiel.



## LEVINTHAL CITATIONS CONFERRED ON CENTER TEACHERS

THE Israel H. Levinthal Citation was conferred upon six members of the Hebrew School faculty at a meeting of the Parent-Teachers Association at the Brooklyn Jewish Center on Wednesday, January 24, 1951. The recipients of the honor are:

Jean Serbin-Beder  
Nellie Cohen  
Samuel Edelheit  
Betty Rothberg  
Leo Shpall  
Paula Weinreb

The award was made, in conjunction with Jewish Education Year which is being currently celebrated, to those teachers who had rendered *chai* (18) or more years of meritorious service in behalf of Jewish education. The citations were named in honor of our beloved Rabbi, Dr. Israel H. Levinthal, in keeping with the emphasis which he has placed throughout the many years of his ministry on the significance of Jewish education. The citations which are in Hebrew read in translation as follows:

### "ISRAEL H. LEVINTHAL CITATION

Great Peace Have They Who Love  
Thy Law (Ps. 119)

This certificate is presented by the Parent-teachers Association of the Hebrew School of the Brooklyn Jewish Center as a token of appreciation to a beloved teacher who has rendered *chai* (18) or more years of meritorious service in behalf of Jewish education and who has dedicated his life to the dissemination of Torah and of the ideals of Judaism.

May God bless him with strength and good health so that he may continue his service to the community and so that he may be enabled to help train a generation loyal to our great heritage and dedicated to the rehabilitation of our people and to the rebuilding of Israel."

The chief address was delivered by Dr. Israel H. Levinthal who pointed to the lasting influence of the teacher on the personality of the child. It is significant, he stated, that Moses is referred to in Jewish tradition, not as the "legislator" or the "emancipator" but as *Mosheh*

*Rabbenu*, "Moses Our Teacher." Teaching the Torah was the highest calling which a Jew could follow. The citations were conferred upon the teachers by Rabbi Mordecai H. Lewittes who enumerated the varied services of each recipient to our school and to the cause of Jewish education.

Mr. Frank Schaeffer representing the Board of Trustees as well as the Hebrew Education Committee of the Brooklyn Jewish Center, emphasized the important place that the teachers have always held in the life of this institution, since the dissemination of Torah is one of the basic goals toward which the Brooklyn Jewish Center always strives. The Jewish Education Committee of New York was represented by Mr. Matthew Mosenkis, Consultant for Hebrew Schools in Brooklyn. Mr. Mosenkis pointed to the fact that these citations were a new thing in Jewish education reflecting credit not only on the recipients, but on those who were making the awards. He stated that the fact that the teachers could be so signally honored marked a change for the better in the values of the community, and expressed the hope that other congregations would see fit to follow in the footsteps of the Brooklyn Jewish Center. Rabbi Manuel Saltzman speaking for the Adult School stressed the fine work of all six recipients on behalf of adult Jewish education. The text of the Israel H. Levinthal Citation was read in Hebrew and in English by Mrs. Sarah Kushner, chairman of the Parent-Teachers Association, who presided at the meeting.

Cantor William Sauler rendered two Hebrew songs, *V'lai* and *Hora*, accompanied by Mr. Sholom Secunda. Both numbers were enthusiastically received by the audience.

Congratulatory messages were read from the United Synagogue of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, the United Parent-Teachers Association and the Jewish Education Committee. One of the letters from Rabbi Abraham E. Millgram, Educational Director of the United Synagogue, follows:

"Dear Mrs. Kushner:

I was delighted to learn that your PTA is planning to honor six mem-

bers of your faculty who have contributed at least eighteen years of meritorious service to Jewish education. These educators have given the best years of their lives to the service of our people, and it is only proper that we take a few moments from our busy routines to pay homage to them. The names of these honored individuals are known to me and I am somewhat acquainted with the nature of their work. I am therefore taking the liberty of writing this letter to ask you to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Mrs. Jean Beder, Mrs. Nellie Cohen, Mrs. Paula Weinreb, Mrs. Betty Rothberg, Mr. Leo Shpall, and Mr. Samuel Edelheit. May I also express my appreciation of the thoughtfulness of your PTA in arranging for this special event. It should serve as an example for Jewish communities everywhere. Jewish educators should be encouraged and our appreciation of their work should be made known to them.

ABRAHAM E. MILLGRAM,  
Educational Director.

### Junior League News

The Junior League has made wonderful strides this season and have enjoyed some very fine programs during the past month. The month of February promises to be as successful as the past months with the following programs planned: March 1st has been set aside for the usual Social and Get-together Evening; March 8th will feature a discussion of "Control of Social Diseases" by a representative from the Board of Health; March 15th will highlight the services of the B'nai Brith and Federation Employment with Melvin D. Freeman as guest speaker. His subject will be "You and the Armed Forces"; March 22nd will celebrate the festive holiday of Purim with a dance for the benefit of the United Jewish Appeal.

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The New Telephone Number  
of the Center is  
HYacinth 3-8800

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# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BROOKLYN JEWISH CENTER

BY THE PRESIDENT, EMANUEL GREENBERG

*The President's report was read at the Annual Meeting held on January 25, 1951.*

**A**S PRESIDENT of the institution, it is my privilege to deliver this evening my annual report dealing with our activities during the year 1950. In doing so, I will necessarily discuss items familiar to many of you who, having been a part of the Brooklyn Jewish Center for many years, are acquainted with the multitudinous affairs of this institution.

Ours is a fluctuating membership and, as you may note from our reports, hundreds of new members join every year to replace those who, for one reason or another, find it necessary to sever their relationship with our Center. These new members should be made aware of the full scope of the activities conducted in this building. They often fail to see the whole picture, comprising religious, cultural, recreational and social interests.

It is for this reason that we deem it wise to devote one evening a year to a review of all that this institution stands for and what it strives to accomplish for its membership and for the community at large.

## RELIGIOUS FUNCTIONS

Our religious functions include daily services as well as services on the Sabbath and on all holidays. The sermons are preached alternately by Rabbi Levinthal and Rabbi Saltzman. The Congregational Singing Group, under the leadership of Mr. Sholom Secunda, has greatly enhanced the musical portion of the services. The Late Friday Evening Lecture Services were addressed by Dr. Levinthal, Rabbi Saltzman, Rabbi Lewittes and occasional guest speakers. The special musical evenings, given four times during the season by the Brooklyn Jewish Center Choral Ensemble, have helped to make these services more inspiring and enjoyable. It is noteworthy that the attendance at all services has been most satisfactory. We do, of course, deplore the fact that more of our members do not attend, particularly on Friday evenings. This is not a new problem but one that, nevertheless, should be given serious consideration. We are glad that the people outside the Center

membership are attracted to our services, but we should make Friday night attendance "fashionable" among our members. I know that they would thereby derive a great deal of spiritual satisfaction.

## HEBREW EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Department of Jewish Education includes the following schools:

a. The Afternoon Hebrew School which this year has a registration of 320 boys and girls.

b. The High School Department and the Religious School which consists of 293 children attending one or two sessions weekly.

c. The Center Academy, our progressive day school, combining secular and Hebrew instruction, with an enrollment of 150 children.

The total number of pupils attending all three schools is 763. This constitutes a sizeable number, especially when one considers the limited school facilities at our disposal.

Last year, we remodelled the building at 912 Lincoln Place which helped us to meet the congestion due to lack of space. The Board of Trustees has recently decided to take possession of 914 Lincoln Place and convert it for use as classrooms. This will provide additional facilities which are badly needed.

The Center Academy has been going through a period of adjustments designed to meet its operational deficit. A committee appointed pursuant to a resolution of the Board of Trustees made a detailed study of the entire financial structure of the school and of the relationship between the Academy and the Brooklyn Jewish Center. Following the receipt of the Survey Committee report, the Board of Trustees and the school authorities made a number of economies which will help to improve the financial condition of the school.

This year's registration in the Center's Institute of Jewish Studies for Adults numbers 236. Intensive courses are offered to the students in Religion, Zionism, Jewish History, Bible, Talmud and Hebrew. These courses continue throughout the season and classes are held mornings and evenings.

## MEMBERSHIP

As of December 31, 1950, our membership numbered 2,374, of which 1,430 were married persons and 944 single. You may note from these figures that our membership is less than in previous years. This situation was not entirely unexpected. I had occasion to mention in my previous reports that the unprecedented enrollment in the past five years was not to be ascribed to a normal increase and that we had reason to believe the membership would decrease in the years to come. Fortunately, the number of applications received continue to be large enough to help replace members who resigned. While we regret the losses due to changes in residence, we are gratified that these men and women join similar institutions in their new communities and that they are carrying forward the ideals of Judaism with which they have been imbued while they dwelt in our midst.

## SISTERHOOD

Last October our Sisterhood celebrated with impressive ceremonies the thirtieth anniversary of its founding. We can be justly proud of the Sisterhood record of splendid accomplishments. Their members are playing an important role in communal affairs and in promoting the activities of women in Jewish life. Anyone following the Sisterhood page in our monthly *Review* will be impressed by the great number of activities in which the Sisterhood is engaged. The dynamic leadership of the Sisterhood is worthy of emulation.

The Young Folks League, too, has completed thirty years of existence. It was one of the very first auxiliaries established by the Center. The group has expanded tremendously, especially in recent years. But numbers alone are not enough. The Young Folks League is constantly adding to its activities, such as the organization of groups devoted to Current Events, Hebrew Culture, Music, Drama, Folk Dance and the Oneg Shabbat at the conclusion of the Late Friday Night Lecture Series.

The Young Married Group held a number of meetings of interest to its membership. It is one of the youngest of our groups and we look forward to its con-

tinued growth. Our junior clubs functioned successfully under capable leadership. The membership consists of boys and girls of all ages and their activities include programs of cultural and social nature.

### FORUM LECTURES

The lectures sponsored by the Forum Committee were held on the first and third Monday evenings during the season. Among the prominent speakers who addressed the Forum in 1950 were: U. S. Senator Hubert Humphrey, Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, Bartley Crum, Israeli Ambassador Abba S. Eban.

### THE LIBRARY

Our well-stocked library is open to the entire community. It is continually adding to its storehouse of world wisdom and is used extensively by the students of our schools and by many other readers. It contains over ten thousand volumes in Hebrew, Yiddish and English.

### THE CENTER PUBLICATIONS

The *Brooklyn Jewish Center Review* is a monthly publication of high literary value. Its reputation as an Anglo-Jewish magazine is well established and is eagerly read by people of prominence throughout the land.

The *Bulletin* is a weekly containing news of all events sponsored by the Center.

The *Annual Diary* is published before the High Holy Days and is mailed to all members.

### PHYSICAL TRAINING

The attendance in the Physical Training Department during the past year was 38,651. The facilities are used by a large percentage of our membership — men, women, boys and girls.

### COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The social activities were conducted in behalf of the major fund-raising efforts through special committees appointed for that purpose. These included the campaign for the United Jewish Appeal, the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies and the Jewish Theological Seminary. As a result of the special appeal on Yom Kippur for the building of houses in Israel, the Center was presented recently with a scroll signifying the dedication of eight housing units in the name of our institution. To support the splendid work of the Jewish Theological Seminary in

promoting Jewish religious and cultural life in this country, the Board of Trustees decided to donate to it the sum of \$10,000 payable in four annual installments. The Center has also participated in various drives in behalf of the Red Cross, March of Dimes, Scout Movement and others.

I have tried to cover only the highlights of Center activities in order to make this report as brief as possible. More could be said if time permitted. The accomplishments during the year were brought about through a great deal of effort on the part of many of our members to whom we are sincerely indebted. My personal thanks go to the officers who were my immediate advisers and collaborators, Dr. Moses Spatt, First Vice-President; Mr. David Goodstein, our Treasurer, and Mr. Frank Schaeffer, our Secretary. The Center suffered a severe blow in the death last June of our Second Vice-President, Mr. Hyman Aaron. As Chairman of the House Committee, he gave fatherly care to our building, supervising all repairs, improvements and renovations. The institution had in him a loyal and devoted servant who gave of himself wholeheartedly and selflessly. We shall miss him greatly. I know that his place will be hard to fill. Our Treasurer, Mr. David Goodstein, has completed ten years of service in that important position. He has chosen to retire from this office and we owe him a special vote of thanks for his splendid efforts in watching the finances of the institution throughout his term in office.

I am, as usual, grateful to the members of the Board of Trustees and the Governing Board, to the chairmen and members of the Standing Committees, to the officers and members of the Sisterhood, the officers and members of the Young Folks League and to the membership of the institution for their continued cooperation in helping to promote the ideals of the Center.

To our revered spiritual leader, Dr. Israel H. Levinthal, we extend our sincere thanks and appreciation together with our best wishes for good health so that he may continue to be an inspiration to us and to the community for many years to come.

In appreciation of the splendid services rendered by Rabbis Manuel Saltzman and Mordecai H. Lewittes, the Center changed

their status from that of Assistant Rabbis to Associate Rabbis of the Center. They have performed their duties and responsibilities well and I know that we can continue to count on their selfless devotion to the institution.

During the past year the Brooklyn Jewish Center celebrated the completion of thirty years of devoted service rendered by our Administrative Director, Mr. Joseph Goldberg. The large attendance of the Center membership at the reception given in his honor and the fine tributes paid to him on that occasion are evidence of the affection we have for him. As a sign of recognition, the Board of Trustees voted him a life contract, an act which is, I believe, unique in the Synagogue Center movement.

My hearty thanks to our Cantor, Rev. William Sauler, to our Music Director, Mr. Sholom Secunda, to our Librarian, Dr. Elias N. Rabinowitz, and to our Sexton, Rev. Meyer Rogoff, as well as to the faculties of all our education departments, and to the entire staff of the Center. They all labored devotedly and well and we are grateful to them.

We are entering the year 1951 with deep concern over the fate that may be in store for our country and, indeed, for the whole world. The wounds of World War II have hardly healed and we are again faced with the possibility of a new world conflict, the extent of which the human mind cannot even fathom. Once again, we hear the terrifying words "total mobilization," "blood, sweat and tears," "bomb shelters," "blood banks," "universal military training," "rationing," "taxation till it hurts," and other grim expressions. No one can predict the place of 1951 in world history. As loyal citizens we shall be ready to do what may be demanded of us to help bring about the victory of world democratic forces over the threat of communist terrorism.

Let us hope that these dark clouds which are now looming on the horizon will pass, that sanity will ultimately prevail and that the dictators now trying to plunge the world into chaos and darkness will realize that their eventual fate will be that of the other dictators who preceded them. We fervently pray that the Jewish ideal of world peace will predominate in the years immediately ahead.

# SUMMARY OF EVENTS FOR 1950

## FRIDAY NIGHT LECTURE AND SERVICES

"The Revived Interest in Hassidism—What Does It Signify?"—Rabbi Levinthal—Jan. 6th.

"The Old and the New Jew"—Rabbi Saltzman—Jan. 13th.

"An Index of Jewish American Types"—Rabbi Abraham P. Bloch—Jan. 20th.  
 "The Psychological Analysis of Prejudice"—Rabbi Levinthal—Jan. 27th.

"Trends in American Jewish Life—An Analysis"—Rabbi Saltzman—Feb. 3rd.

"The Old-New Song of Zion"—Rabbi Jacob Kabakoff—Feb. 10th.

"The Synagogue Looks to the Future"—Rabbi Saltzman—Feb. 17th.

"The Melody of Jewish Life"—Rabbi Saltzman—Special Musical Services in honor of Jewish Music Month by Center Choral Ensemble led by Mr. Sholom Secunda—Cantor Sauler, Soloist—Feb. 24th.

"A Message for Purim"—Rabbi Lewittes—Mar. 3rd.

"The Role of the Jewish Women Today"—Sisterhood Service—Participants: the Mesdames Sarah Klinghoffer, Rose Wiener, Sarah Epstein, Hannah Jaffe, Lilian M. Lowenfeld, Sarah Kushner, Mildred Levine—Mrs. Beatrice Schaeffer, Chairman—Rabbi Levinthal and Rabbi Saltzman, speakers.

"The Rabbi of Lubawich—A Tribute and an Evaluation"—Rabbi Levinthal—Mar. 17th.

Concluding Late Friday Night Service—Dedicated to Post-Bar Mitzvah students who continued their Hebrew studies—Musical program by Center Choral Ensemble under direction of Mr. Sholom Secunda—Participants: Melvin Aminoff, Norman Beris, Lawrence Berger, Morton Cohen, Paul Davis, Robert Gluckman, David Goldstein, Harvey Greenberg, Harold Kushner, Amnon Orent, Samuel Rappaport, Alan Sloate, Richard Stadin and David Tepperson—Rabbi Levinthal and Rabbi Saltzman, speakers—Mar. 24th.

"The United Nations—The World's Only Hope for Peace Today"—Rabbi Levinthal—Oct. 27th.

"American Zionism and Israel Nationalism"—Rabbi Saltzman—Nov. 3rd.

"Where East and West Do Meet"—

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATIONAL RECREATIONAL SOCIAL

Rabbi Harold Gordon—Nov. 10th.

"What I Saw and Heard in Israel"—Mr. Max Herzfeld—Nov. 17th.

"Gratitude in Time of Crisis—A Thanksgiving Sermon"—Rabbi Saltzman—Nov. 24th.

"The Role of Dogma in Judaism"—Rabbi Levinthal—Dec. 1st.

"The Message of Chanukah For Our Day"—Rabbi Saltzman—Musical concert by Center Choral Ensemble under leadership of Mr. Sholom Secunda—Cantor Sauler, Soloist—Dec. 8th.

"A New Challenge to American Jewish Life"—Rabbi Bernard Mandelbaum—Dec. 15th.

"Conservative Judaism and Jewish Youth"—Rabbi Saltzman—Dec. 22nd.

"Annual College Youth Service"—Symposium—"American Jewish Youth in Times of Crisis"—Participants: Vivian Daitz, Rona Levy, Martin Rettinger, Doris Ohlsen and Thomas Kraner—Dec. 29th.

## HOLIDAY SERVICES

Purim Services—Reading of the Megillah—Mar. 2nd and 3rd.

First Days of Passover—Sermons by Rabbi Levinthal and Rabbi Saltzman—Apr. 2nd and 3rd.

Concluding Days of Passover—Sermons by Rabbi Levinthal and Rabbi Saltzman—Apr. 8th and 9th.

Shevuoth Service—Followed by Consecration Services—May 22nd.

Shevuoth Service—Second Day—Sermon by Maj. Ralph J. Kaplan, Former Major in the British Army; Founder of the Universal College in Tel Aviv—Cantor Sauler officiated both days—May 23rd.

Special Baccalaureate Service for Center Graduates—Sermon by Rabbi Lewittes—June 24th.

Tisha B'Ab Services—July 22nd and 23rd.

Slichoth Services—Cantor Sauler assisted by the Brooklyn Jewish Center Choir under the leadership of Mr. Sholom Secunda—Sept. 2nd.

Rosh Hashonah Services—Sermon by Rabbi Levinthal—Sept. 12th.

Second Day of Rosh Hashonah—Sermon by Rabbi Saltzman—Sept. 13th.

Rosh Hashonah Services in Auditorium—Rev. Max Hoeflich officiated—Sermon by Rabbi Saltzman, first day—Sermon by Rabbi Lewittes, second day.

Kol Nidre Services—Sermon by Rabbi Levinthal—Sept. 20th.

Kol Nidre Services in Auditorium—Sermon by Rabbi Saltzman—Sept. 20th.

Yom Kippur Services—Sermon by Rabbi Levinthal—Sept. 21st.

Yom Kippur Services in Auditorium—Sermon by Rabbi Saltzman—Sept. 21st.

Junior Congregation Services during High Holy Days under leadership of Rabbi Lewittes and Mr. Naftali Frankel.

Children's Congregation Services during High Holy Days under leadership of Mrs. Evelyn Zusman—Sept. 12th and 13th.

Succoth Services—Sermon by Rabbi Levinthal—Sept. 26th.

Second Day of Succoth—Sermon by Rabbi Saltzman—Cantor Sauler assisted by Center Choir under leadership of Sholom Secunda officiated on both days—Sept. 27th.

Concluding Succoth Services—Sermon by Rabbi Levinthal—Cantor Sauler assisted by the Center Choir under leadership of Sholom Secunda officiated on both days—Oct. 3rd and 4th.

## MONDAY NIGHT FORUMS

"Why the Alert About Our Atomic Energy?"—Gen. Leslie R. Groves—Jan. 9th.

Symposium: "Academic Freedom—For Whom?"—Prof. Sidney Hook and Prof. Goodwin Watson—Jan. 16th.

Debate on "Is the Extension of the Welfare State Beneficial to the American People?"—Norman Thomas vs. Prof. Glenn Saxon—Feb. 6th.

Symposium: "Is There Anti-Semitism Under Communism?"—Speakers, Hal Lehrman, Dr. Samuel Gringhauz and Abraham Chapman.

"Behind the Silken Curtain"—Bartley Crum—Mar. 6th.

"Civil Rights and American Foreign Policy"—U. S. Senator Hubert H. Humphrey—Mar. 20th.

"The Relationship Between American

Jewry and the State of Israel"—Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver—Nov. 20th.

"Israel Today and Tomorrow"—Ambassador Abba S. Eban—Dec. 4th.

Debate: "Does the McCarran Anti-Subversive Bill Endanger Our Liberties and Freedom?"—J. Raymond Walsh vs. George Hamilton Combs—Dec. 18th.

### YIDDISH EVENINGS

Evening of Yiddish Drama, Humor and Dance—Dvora Rosenblum and Nachum Melnick in a program of drama, humor, satire, dance and song—Jan. 11th.

Yiddish Literary and Musical Evening—Testimonial to Dr. Zvi Cahn on the publication of his drama of Chassidic Life "Der Rabi fon Kotzk"—Dr. Israel H. Levinthal, Abraham Reisen, Dr. Abraham Asen, Dr. Bernard Heller, Dr. A. Rozmarin, Avi Scooler, A. L. Baron, Zahava, Henrietta Schnitzer, Natalie A. Levine—Mordecai Rudensky, Chairman—Dec. 13th.

### SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Annual Meeting—Election and Installation of Officers—Jan. 26th.

Reception in honor of Mr. Joseph Goldberg in celebration of his thirtieth anniversary as Administrative Director of the Brooklyn Jewish Center—Mar. 23rd.

Passover Sedorim—Apr. 1st and 2nd.

Dinner in behalf of the United Jewish Appeal—Miss Ruth Gruber, Guest Speaker—Apr. 27th.

Season's Final Membership Social—Center Choral Ensemble directed by Sholom Secunda—Cantor William Sauler, Soloist—Gloria Perkins, Violinist—May 18th.

Membership Social—Entertainment by Leo Fuchs, Yiddish Comedian, and Napoleon Reed, Tenor—Sept. 28th.

Membership Social—Program: Simons Bermanus, Israeli Tenor—Lucille and Eddie Roberts, Mind Readers—Nov. 2nd.

Dinner in behalf of Federation of Jewish Philanthropies—Nov. 16th.

Membership Social—Chanukah Program—Cantor Sauler, Soloist—Gene Marvey, Tenor, Guest Artist—Dec. 7th.

Annual Thanksgiving Dinner—Nov. 23rd.

Testimonial Dinner to Mr. Max Herzfeld in behalf of the Jewish Theological Seminary—Dr. Max Arzt, Guest Speaker—Dec. 19th.

### SISTERHOOD ACTIVITIES

Jan. 9th—Sisterhood Hostess Women's League Day—Presentation of play "A Way of Life."

Jan. 12th—Participation in Tea at home of Mrs. Joseph Heimowitz in behalf of Federation of Jewish Philanthropies.

Jan. 18th—Participation in rally in behalf of Federation of Jewish Philanthropies.

Jan. 23rd—Meeting—Speaker, Susan D. Brandeis on "Higher Education for American Jewry"—Musical program by Mrs. Dorothy Wagner Neiman, Concert Pianist.

Feb. 1st—Participation in Hebrew School Parent-Teachers Association Open Meeting—Presentation of Sisterhood's dramatic success "A Way of Life."

Feb. 16th—First lecture on series "Modern Woman and Her Family"—Dr. Lena Levine—"The Role of the Mother in the Family Picture."

Feb. 23rd—Lecture Series—Miss Sonia Penn—"Strengthening Family Ties."

Feb. 27th—Gala Jewish Music Festival—"Music Through the Years" by Mrs. Lila Leonard—Arrangements by Sholom Secunda—Mrs. Anne Bernstein, Soprano—Brooklyn Jewish Center Octette—Rabbi Lewittes, speaker, on "Brotherhood and Torah."

Mar. 2nd—Lecture Series—Dr. Harry Rivlin—"Problems of the Modern Adolescent."

Mar. 8th—"Torah Fund Luncheon"—Marie Syrkin on "Israel and the American Jewish Woman"—Musical program by Herb Warner and Betty Boucher.

Mar. 9th—Lecture Series—Rabbi Manuel Saltzman—"Religious Aspects of Family Life."

Mar. 7th and 9th—Tour through Horowitz-Margaret Matzoh Factory.

Mar. 27th—Meeting—"Jewish Women of Achievement"—Guests: Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin, Mrs. Ludwig Kaphan, Mrs. Irving M. Engel, Mrs. Isaac Gilman—Musical program by Cantor William Sauler and Mr. Sholom Secunda.

Apr. 19th—Participation in United Jewish Appeal Rally at Hotel St. George.

Apr. 24th—Meeting—Celebration of Israel Independence Day—Annual summation of American Affairs by Mrs. Beatrice Schaeffer—Showing of film "Roosevelt Story."

May 4th—Participation in Women's League Conference and Luncheon at Park Avenue Synagogue.

May 8th—Participation in United Jewish Appeal Dessert-Luncheon at the Center.

May 10th—Participation in Brandeis

University Rally sponsored by B'nai Brith Women's Albert Einstein Chapter.

May 11th—Participation in Jewish Blind Day at Hotel St. George.

May 15th—"Mother's Day" program—Address: "Matriarchs in Israel" by Mrs. Joseph Horowitz—Musical Tribute to Mothers—Program by Evelyn Sachs, Metropolitan Opera and Radio Star—Special tribute to all members who celebrated their golden wedding anniversaries.

May 18th—Participation in Brooklyn Division, Women's League Closing Luncheon at Temple Beth-El, Manhattan Beach.

June 1st—Participation in All-Out Rally in behalf of the United Jewish Appeal—Book Review of "The Wall" by Rabbi Lewittes—Musical program.

June 7th—Installation of Officers—Invocation by Rabbi Saltzman—Salutation by Rabbi Levinthal—Annual Report by Mrs. Sarah Klinghoffer—Musical program by Oscar Waltzer, Radio and Concert Pianist—Showing of movies of "Mother's Day" meeting and celebration—Installing officer, Mrs. Abraham Lasky, President of Metropolitan Branch, National Women's League.

June 12th—Closing Executive Board Meeting and Luncheon.

Sept. 18th—Season's first meeting—Musical program by Isobel Walters, Soprano, assisted by Wallace Kottler, Pianist—Welcome by Mrs. Sarah Klinghoffer, President, and address by Rabbi Levinthal.

Sept. 28th—Participation in Succoth Party at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Oct. 12th—Sisterhood's Thirtieth Anniversary Celebration—Brooklyn Jewish Center Choral Ensemble directed by Mr. Sholom Secunda—Reception to members following program.

Oct. 23rd—Annual Non-Partisan Election Issue meeting—Celebration of United Nations Week—Guest Speaker, Mrs. Lillian Rothschild on "Your Stake in Your Government."

Oct. 25th—Participation in United Jewish Appeal Tea at Hotel Plaza.

Nov. 1st—Annual Mother-Daughter Luncheon—Fashion Show by Martin's.

Nov. 20th—Participation in "Night of Stars" at Madison Square Garden.

Nov. 27th—Celebration of Chanukah and Jewish Book Month—Book Review of "The Gentleman and the Jew" by Naomi Finkelstein—Chanukah Testimonials by Heidi Mayer, Radio Personality.



Nov. 28th—Participation in Institute Day at the East Midwood Jewish Center.

Nov. 29th—Participation in Federation of Jewish Philanthropies Organization Day at Hotel Astor.

Dec. 4th — Participation in "Open Meeting" — Metropolitan Branch of Women's League at Temple Petach Tikvah.

Dec. 11th — Participation in Annual Chanukah Luncheon of Metropolitan Branch of Women's League of United Synagogue at Hotel Commodore.

Dec. 21st—Annual Welcome to New Members — Address on "Current World Scene" by Hon. William I. Siegel — Dance program by Nachum and Dina.

### YOUNG MARRIED GROUP

Jan. 11th — Meeting — Film "Of Human Growth"—Discussion of film by Dr. Morris Honigman of Jewish Hospital Staff.

Feb. 8th — "Musical Quiz" between husbands and wives—Musical program by Miss Shirley Sharkey, Vocalist, and Stan Harper, Harmonica Stylist, under leadership of Ira Brodsky.

Mar. 15th — Purim Masquerade — Games directed by Irvin and Laura Rubin.

Apr. 15th — Book Review on "The Wall" presented by Rabbi Lewittes.

Apr. 22nd — Annual Social Affairs — Proceeds to United Jewish Appeal.

May 11th—Meeting—Rabbi Saltzman, speaker, on "Marriage and Family Relations."

June 22nd—Closing meeting of season —Old-fashioned "Square Dance" on Roof Garden with Bob Harker, Caller—Election of Officers.

Oct. 12th—Open meeting of season—Film "Preface to a Life"—Discussion of film led by Dr. Meyer Rubban, Director of Brooklyn Child Guidance League.

Nov. 9th — Membership discussion of subject "How to Cope With Anti-Semitic Demonstrations."

Dec. 14th — Chanukah Social and Party—Games and Sporting Events.

### YOUNG FOLKS LEAGUE

Jan. 10th — Debate in participation with the Society for Advancement of Judaism: "Resolved That Participation in Organized Religious Life is Necessary in Order to be a Good Jew" — Speakers: Harold Kalb, Leroy Lowenfeld, Dr. Leo Golub and Bert Goldman—Irvin Rubin, moderator.

Jan. 17th — Symposium: "Interpreta-

tion of Judaism"—Orthodox, Conservative and Reform participation.

Jan. 24th — Address by Mr. Louis J. Gribetz on "How Shall Jewish Youth Orientate Itself in This Changing World?"

Jan. 31st — Showing of film "The Roosevelt Story" in conjunction with the "March of Dimes" project.

Feb. 3rd — Inauguration of "Oneg Shabbat" following Late Friday Night Lecture Services.

Feb. 7th — Celebration of "Jewish Book Month"—Presentation of an all-Gershwin program by Mr. Sholom Secunda.

Feb. 14th—Annual Affair in behalf of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies.

Feb. 19th — Participation in Second Annual National Y.P.L. Education Conference—Speakers: Rabbi Joachim Prinz, Rabbi Theodore Friedman, Rabbi Jacob Agus, Mr. Leon Kohn, Mrs. Bernice K. Bricklin and Mr. Irvin Rubin — Rabbi Saltzman, Moderator.

Feb. 22nd — Celebration of "Brotherhood Week"—Speaker, Rev. Karl Chworowsky of the Flatbush Unitarian Church on "The Furtherance of Inter-Faith Unity and Understanding."

Feb. 28th — Showing of U. S. Army Signal Corps film "Nuremberg" depicting the Nuremberg trials.

Mar. 7th—Purim Celebration—"The Development of Jewish Humor"—Mr. Harry Blickstein, speaker.

Mar. 14th—Gala program in behalf of the United Jewish Appeal—Musical program by Center Choral Ensemble, directed by Mr. Sholom Secunda — Miss Elaine Cohen, Violinist—Guest Speaker—Judge A. David Benjamin.

Mar. 21st—Meeting and social evening.

Mar. 24th — Participation in Y.P.L. Convention at Hotel Concord, N. Y.

Mar. 28th—Passover Program—Ratification of new nomination plan to be adopted by Young Folks League.

Apr. 4th—Meeting and social evening.

Apr. 11th — Mr. Lazar E. Levinthal, Guest Speaker—"The Psychiatrist Takes the Stand"—Social Hour.

Apr. 14th—Lecture and Oneg Shabbat —Rabbi Saltzman on "Young Adults in the American Jewish Community."

Apr. 18th—Meeting—Showing of film —Social Hour.

Apr. 21st—Lecture and Oneg Shabbat —Rabbi Lewittes on "A Message for Israel Independence Day."

Apr. 25th—Dramatic Group presentation of Eternal Light script "The Seed and the Dream" under direction of Mr. Herbert Levine.

Apr. 28th—Lecture and Oneg Shabbat —Hon. William I. Siegel on "Freedom of Speech—Can It Be Curtailed?"

May 13th—Spring Formal—Reception and Buffet Supper — Marvin Blickstein and Orchestra.

May 16th — Meeting — Showing of Movies—Social Hour.

June 6th — Meeting — Rabbi Herman Pollack, Director of Hillel Foundation at Brooklyn College—"The Place of Hillel in Contemporary Jewish Life."

June 13th — Election of Officers and Executive Committee — Season's first Roof Garden meeting continuing weekly during July and August.

June 21st and 22nd—Presentation of "Out of the Frying Pan" by Dramatic Group.

Sept. 5th — Concluding Roof Garden meeting of season.

Sept. 21st—Yom Kippur Night Frolic.

Sept. 27th—Succoth Holiday program.

Oct. 10th—Installation of Officers and Executive Committee.

Oct. 17th — Debate "The Path of World Peace: United Nations or World Government?" — William Henderson vs. Oliver A. Quayle 3rd.

Oct. 24th—Meeting—Showing of interesting film.

Oct. 31st—Presentation of an Eternal Light script in celebration of Balfour Day.

Nov. 7th—Gala "Election Night" Social and Election Returns.

Nov. 14th — Celebration of Jewish Book Month — Dr. Nahum N. Glatzer, Guest Speaker—"Through Jewish Books to Jewish Life."

Nov. 21st — Presentation of original script "For This We Thank Thee" by Ben Aronin, under direction of Herbert Levine.

Nov. 28th — Celebration of anniversary of the U.N. decision to partition Palestine—Dr. Samuel T. Markoff, Guest Speaker—Sketches and songs by Mr. Albert Ben-Zwi and Mr. Ben Oren, both of Israel.

Dec. 5th — Chanukah program under direction of Mr. Hy Rosen.

Dec. 12th — Lecture "National Security and Independent Rights — What Program is Best for the United States Today?" — Senator Fred G. Morritt,

speaker.

Dec. 19th—Participation in annual dinner in behalf of the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Dec. 26th—Meeting—Entertaining social evening.

### JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

Jan. 5th—Junior League meeting—Square Dances—Social Hour.

Jan. 7th—Inta-League Boys and Girls—An evening of Hebrew songs and dances led by Herbert Kummel.

Jan. 12th—Junior League meeting—Showing of film "Nuremberg—Its Lesson for Today."

Jan. 14th—Inta-League Boys and Girls—Discussion on Zionism led by a representative of the Z.O.A. No. 14.

Jan. 19th—Junior League meeting—Discussion on the problem of "inter-marriage"—Social Hour.

Jan. 21st—Inta-League Boys and Girls—Lecture and demonstration by Consolidated Edison Company on lighting and electricity.

Jan. 26th—Junior League—Presentation of Norman Corwin's "Tel Aviv" prepared by Betty Krant.

Feb. 2d—Junior League—Informal social evening.

Feb. 4th—Inta-League Boys and Girls—Bingo—Prizes—Refreshments.

Feb. 9th—Junior League—Celebration of Lincoln's Birthday presentation of Norman Corwin's "The Lonesome Train."

Feb. 11th—Inta-League Boys and Girls—Basketball game and dance.

Feb. 16th—Junior League—Review of David Lilienthal's book "This I Do Believe"—Discussion on "What is the Role of Democracy in the Atomic Age?"

Feb. 18th—Inta-League Boys and Girls—Film shown by Cancer Committee.

Feb. 23rd—Junior League—Rabbi Saltzman, speaker—"Problems Arising from Inter-marriage."

Feb. 25th—Inta-League Boys and Girls—Rabbi Saltzman, Guest Speaker.

Mar. 9th—Junior League—Celebration of Jewish Music Month—Sholom Secunda, speaker and illustrator.

Mar. 4th—Inta-League Boys and Girls—Purim Masquerade.

Mar. 11th—Joint Purim celebration of all Junior Clubs.

Mar. 11th—Inta-League Boys and Girls—Discussion on "Jewish Youth in Israel" by speaker representing Jewish Welfare Board.

Mar. 16th—Junior League—Address

on "Race Relations" by prominent speaker.

Mar. 18th—Inta-League Boys and Girls—Showing of film "Nutrition" by American Red Cross.

Mar. 25th—Inta-League Boys and Girls—Program presented by Arthur Safier, Guest Leader.

Mar. 30th—Junior League—Address: "Job Opportunities for the 1950 College Graduate"—Melvin D. Freeman, Guest Speaker.

Apr. 6th—Junior League—Annual Spring Hop—Proceeds to U.J.A.

Apr. 13th—Junior League—Guest Speaker—"The Status of the Yemenites."

Apr. 15th—Inta-League Boys and Girls—Gala carnival and dance.

Apr. 15th—Joint meeting of Junior Clubs—Comedy movies and shorts.

Apr. 20th—Junior League—Musical program of long playing records directed by Marty Karlin—Movies of the Young People's League convention.

Apr. 29th—Closing meetings of all Junior Clubs.

May 4th—Junior League—Open social meeting.

May 11th—Junior League—Business meeting—Plans for annual formal affair.

May 13th—Junior League—Annual formal affair.

May 18th—Address: "What the American Jewish Congress Program Means to the American Jew Today" by a representative of the American Jewish Congress.

May 25th—Junior League—First Roof Garden Social of the season.

June 8th—Junior League—Presentation of slate of officers for the coming season.

Sept. 14th—Junior League—Opening meeting of season.

Sept. 28th—Junior League—Social meeting.

Oct. 7th—Opening meeting of all Junior Clubs.

Oct. 12th—Junior League—Dance class by Jocelyn Schocket, Jack Sprung and Diana Stadin.

Oct. 19th—Junior League—Discussion of the "State of Israel"—Social Hour.

Oct. 26th—Junior League—Musical program under direction of Diane Stadin and Entertainment Committee.

Nov. 9th—Junior League—"Novelty Game Night."

Nov. 16th—Junior League—"Movie Night"—Social Hour.

Nov. 18th—Inta-League—Discussion:

"The Work of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies."

Nov. 23rd—Junior League—Thanks-giving Social.

Nov. 25th—Inta-League—Discussion: "Social Etiquette for Teen Aged."

Nov. 30th—Junior League—Forum—"Has the U.N. Policy in Korea Contributed to World Peace?"

Dec. 2nd—Inta-League—Barn Dance.

Dec. 7th—Junior League—Square Dance with a professional caller.

Dec. 9th—Chanukah Carnival.

Dec. 14th—Junior League—Musical program and entertainment under direction of Diane Stadin and committee.

Dec. 16th—Inta-League—Discussion by Joseph H. Aaron on "The Effect of the Draft on the Youth."

Dec. 21st—Junior League—Chanukah program.

Dec. 23rd—Inta-League—Basketball game.

Dec. 28th—Junior League—Mid-Winter Hop and Social.

### PHYSICAL TRAINING COMMITTEE

#### Basketball Games

B.J.C. vs. East New York Y.M.H.A.—Jan. 15th.

B.J.C. vs. 92nd Street Y.M.H.A.—Jan. 22nd.

B.J.C. vs. Union Temple—Jan. 29th.

B.J.C. vs. Boro Park Y.M.H.A.—Feb. 5th.

B.J.C. vs. East New York Y.M.H.A.—Feb. 19th.

B.J.C. vs. Pelham Park Community Center—Dec. 3rd.

B.J.C. vs. Cliffside Park A.A.—Dec. 10th.

B.J.C. vs. Bensonhurst Jewish Community House—Dec. 17th.

### RECORD OF BAR MITZVAHS

Arthur Geltzer, son of Dr. and Mrs. Abraham J. Geltzer—Jan. 7th.

Eugene Flamm, son of Mrs. Sadye Flamm—Jan. 14th.

Ronald Ogur, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ogur—Jan. 14th.

Richard Resnick, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Resnick—Jan. 21st.

Bernard Brooks, son of Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel Brooks—Jan. 28th.

Herbert Feinberg, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hyman Feinberg—Feb. 11th.

Stephen Greenberg, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Greenberg—Feb. 11th.

Marshall Ira Rothstein, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Rothstein—Mar. 11th.

Michael Brockman, son of Mr. and

Mrs. Louis Brockman—Mar. 25th.  
Elliot Brill, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Brill—Mar. 25th.  
Robert Kroll, son of Mr. and Mrs. Abe Kroll—Apr. 15th.

Lester Mantell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Mantell—Apr. 22nd.

Robert Sale, son of Mr. and Mrs. Max Sale—Apr. 29th.

Joseph Myron Gartenberg, son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Gartenberg—Apr. 29th.

Philip Greenhut, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman J. Greenhut—May 6th.

James Kornstein, son of Dr. and Mrs. Adolph Kornstein—May 27th.

Ira Freilicher, son of Mr. and Mrs. Morris Freilicher—June 3rd.

Herbert Swarzman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Swarzman—June 3rd.

Paul Kushner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Kushner—June 10th.

Joel Hurwitz, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mervin Hurwitz—June 10th.

Alan Richman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Richman—June 17th.

Robert Rood, son of Dr. and Mrs. Morris Rood—June 17th.

Robert Messing, son of Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Isaacs—June 24th.

William Rosenzweig, son of Mr. and Mrs. Max Rosenzweig—Sept. 9th.

Allen Rosenthal, son of Dr. and Mrs. Edward Rosenthal—Sept. 23rd.

Arthur Rudy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Max Rudy—Sept. 30th.

Norman A. Schapiro, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Schapiro—Oct. 7th.

Paul Winick, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Winick—Oct. 7th.

Harvey Allen Gottlieb, son of Mr. and Mrs. Isidore Gottlieb—Oct. 14th.

Michael Mandel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Mandel—Oct. 14th.

Charles Franklin Soloway, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Soloway—Oct. 21st.

James Alan Geller, son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Geller—Oct. 28th.

Eugene Lee Schwartzwald, son of Judge and Mrs. Jacob Schwartzwald—Oct. 28th.

Edward Alan Nelson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Benj. I. Nelson—Dec. 9th.

John Gropper, son of Mr. and Mrs. Morris Gropper—Dec. 23rd.

Robert Granovsky, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Granovsky—Dec. 30th.

## HEBREW AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

Jan. 15th—Post Bar Mitzvah Service and Breakfast—Speaker, Dr. Mordecai

Rudensky, "What I Saw in Israel."

Jan. 16th-17th—Mid-term tests.

Jan. 31st—End of First Semester.

Feb. 1st—Parent Teachers Association "Meet the Faculty Night."

Feb. 2nd—Tu B'shvat—Distribution of Fruits.

Feb. 19th—Post Bar Mitzvah "Parent-Child" Breakfast.

Mar. 2nd—Megillah Reading for School.

Mar. 5th—Purim Operetta, "Purim House Party."

Mar. 7th—Parent Teachers Association Purim Meeting.

Mar. 19th—Post Bar Mitzvah Breakfast—Speaker, Mr. Irvin Rubin, "American Jewish Youth Movements."

Mar. 23rd—Post Bar Mitzvah Late Friday Night Service.

Mar. 27th—Model Seder.

Apr. 23rd—Assembly in honor of Anniversary of State of Israel.

May 4th—Lag B'omer Athletic Events.

May 21st—Closing Post Bar Mitzvah Breakfast.

May 22nd—Consecration Exercises on first day of Shavuot.

June 11th—Graduation Exercises—Presentation of Cantata "Shalom."

June 18th—Party—Choral Group.

June 20th—G. O. Moving Picture Entertainment.

June 21st-22nd—Promotion.

June 26th—Faculty End-Term Meeting.

Sept. 7th—Opening of Hebrew School.

Sept. 12th-13th—Formation of Children's Congregation for High Holidays under direction of Mrs. Evelyn Zusman

—Junior Congregation Services under direction of Rabbi Mordecai H. Lewittes and Mr. Naftali Frankel.

Sept. 24th—Opening of Sunday School and High School Department.

Oct. 3rd—Simchat Torah Procession.

Nov. 5th—Post Bar Mitzvah Breakfast—Speaker, Mrs. Cohen, "Life in Israel."

Nov. 14th—Opening Parent Teachers Association Meeting—Speaker, Rabbi Harry Halpern, "Education—Our Primary Obligation."

Nov. 20th—Thanksgiving Assembly—Play by Hebrew Dramatic Group.

Dec. 3rd—Chanukah entertainment—Sunday School.

Dec. 10th—Chanukah entertainment—Hebrew School.

Dec. 27th—Story Hour: Spencer Shaw of Brooklyn Public Library.

## HEBREW EDUCATION COMMITTEE

(a) INSTITUTE OF JEWISH STUDIES FOR ADULTS.

Dr. Israel H. Levinthal, Director.  
Rabbi Manuel Saltzman, Associate Director.

Mrs. E. N. Rabinowitz, Registrar.

Hebrew A: Every Wednesday, 8 to 9 P.M., Mr. Hyman Campes, Instructor.

Hebrew B: Every Wednesday, 8 to 9 P.M., Mrs. Evelyn Zusman, Instructor.

Hebrew C: Every Wednesday, 8 to 9 P.M., Mr. Samuel Edelheit, Instructor.

Hebrew D: Every Wednesday, 8 to 9 P.M., Mrs. Jean Serbin-Beder, Instructor.

Hebrew E: Every Wednesday, 7:30 to 9 P.M., Mrs. Paula Weinreb, Instructor.

Advanced Hebrew and Bible in Hebrew: Every Wednesday, 8:30 to 10 P.M., Mrs. Nellie Cohen, Instructor.

Hebrew B: Every Thursday morning, 10:30 to 12 o'clock, Mr. Leo Shpall, Instructor.

Hebrew C: Every Monday morning, 10:30 to 12 o'clock, Mr. Leo Shpall, Instructor.

Religion: Every Wednesday, 9 to 10 P.M., Rabbi Manuel Saltzman, Instructor.

History: Every Tuesday, 8 to 9 P.M., Mr. Leo Shpall, Instructor.

Talmud A: Every Tuesday, 9 to 10 P.M., Dr. Michael Higgin, Instructor.

Talmud B: Every Tuesday, 8 to 9 P.M., Dr. Michael Higgin, Instructor.

Philosophy of Jewish Religion: Every Wednesday morning, 10 to 12 o'clock, Dr. Alexander J. Burnstein, Instructor.

(b) JUNIOR CONGREGATION.

The children of the Hebrew School and Center members meet every Saturday morning and during holidays, in the Beth Hamidrash. Sermons are delivered by the members of the Hebrew School Faculty and guest speakers. High Holy Day services for the Junior Congregation are held during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

(c) CHILDREN'S CONGREGATION.

Special services are held each Sabbath for children below the age of 10. The Children's Congregation also meets during the High Holidays. The teacher in charge is Mrs. Evelyn Zusman.

Hebrew and Religious Schools

1. BETH-SSEFER IVRI (HEBREW SCHOOL):

The upper grades meet on Tuesday and Thursday from 4:00-6:00 P.M. and on Sunday from 9:40-11:30 A.M. The lower grades meet on Monday and on Wednesday from 4:00-6:00 P.M. and on Sunday from 11:30-1:00 P.M. The cur-

riculum, which covers six years of work, includes Hebrew conversation, Chumash, Siddur, Hebrew literature, Jewish history, Jewish current events and Hebrew songs.

Boys older than 10 are not admitted to the beginners' class.

## 2. SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Classes from Kindergarten to 4th grade meet on Sunday from 10:00-12:00 A.M. Beginning with the 5th grade, girls attend one afternoon a week in addition to Sunday morning.

## 3. HIGH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT:

a.—*Florence Marshall Hebrew High School.*

Graduates of the Hebrew School and Center Academy are eligible to join this school, a branch of which meets three times weekly in the Brooklyn Jewish Center. The course covers four years of intensive work in Tanach, Hebrew and history.

b.—*Post-Bar Mitzvah Fellowship.*

Students continue their studies for a two-year period beyond Bar Mitzvah. In addition to their study of history and Bible, the students conduct morning services on Sunday in conjunction with the Post-Bar Mitzvah breakfasts arranged by the Parent-Teachers Association. The last late Friday night service of the year is devoted to the graduates of this group. c.—*Consecration Class.*

Graduates of the Hebrew School, Center Academy or Sunday School are eligible to join the Consecration class which meets on Sunday morning. Consecration exercises are held on the first day of Shavuoth. d.—*Post-Graduate Class.*

This is a two-year extension course in Tanach and Hebrew for graduates of the Hebrew School and Academy. Students meet for a three-hour session on Sunday morning.

e.—*Senior Group.*

Upper grade high school students who have completed a preliminary course may enroll in this group which meets on Sunday morning for the study of Jewish ethics and current problems. This is a two-year course.

## Hebrew School Faculty

Dr. Israel H. Levinthal	Director
Rabbi Mordecai H. Lewittes	Principal
Mrs. E. N. Rabinowitz	Registrar
Dorothy Bregman	Secretary
Mr. Naftali Frankel	Music Instructor

Mrs. Jean Serbin-Beder, Mr. Hyman Campeas, Mrs. Nellie Cohen, Mr. Samuel Edelheit, Mr. Irving Gabel, Mr. Murry

Gabel, Mrs. Betty Rothberg, Mr. Leo Shpall, Mrs. Paula Weinreb and Mrs. Evelyn Zusman.

## Sunday School Faculty

Mrs. Mimi Alter, Mr. Lloyd Altman, Mrs. Lila Cohen, Mr. Jacob Grumet, Miss Sheila Kanarek, Miss Gertrude Freilich, Mrs. Edith Motechin Buchbinder, Mr. Irvin Rubin, Miss Leanne Levine, Miss Laura Sorscher, Mrs. Dorothy Ross, Mrs. Miriam Tessler, Mr. Daniel Waldstein, Miss Hannah Wiedman, Mrs. Bertha Wiener, Miss Julia Heimowitz, Mr. Robert Kriz.

## Saturday Afternoon Class

Meets every Saturday afternoon throughout the season. Speakers: Rabbi Gerson Abelson, Jacob S. Doner, Louis J. Gribetz, Mordecai Rudensky, Rabbi Saltzman, Leo Shpall, Morris Zeldin.

## Class in Talmud

Class in Talmud meets Saturday afternoon throughout the year. Mr. Jacob S. Doner, Instructor.

## CENTER ACADEMY EVENTS

Jan. 10th—Memorial Assembly for Agnes E. Benedict, late Director of the Center Academy.

Jan. 18th—P.T.A. Meeting—Present status of school discussed—Dr. Solomon J. Miller, President of the Board of Trustees, introduced Miss Irene Bush as Acting Head of School.

Feb. 2nd—Tu B'Shevat Assembly—Film showing, "Tomorrow is a Wonderful Day"—Beginning of J.N.F. Annual School Drive.

Feb. 13th—Assembly commemorating Lincoln and Washington's Birthday.

Feb. 20th—8th Grade Parents' Meeting—Film "Of Human Growth" for preview—(A.M.).

Feb. 20th—P.T.A. Meeting—Classroom discussions with grade teachers—Voting class delegates of Executive Board—(P.M.).

Mar. 3rd—Purim Assembly—4th Grade presented original Hebrew play called "Purim Today."

Mar. 16th—P.T.A. Meeting—Speaker: Mrs. Nora Kramer, Adviser-Consultant Macy's Book Shop, on "Children's Reading Habits."

Mar. 16th—Participation of parent body of Center Academy in U.J.A. Drive.

Mar. 16th—Assembly upper school chorus—Center Academy concert.

Mar. 22nd-Apr. 30th—Center Acad-

emy children's art work on display in Jewish Museum.

Mar. 28th—School Passover Seder under leadership of graduating class.

Apr. 24th—P.T.A. Meeting—Speaker: Miss Ruth Berken, Curriculum Adviser Manhattan School District, on "The Importance and Meaning of Play in Today's Progressive Education."

Apr. 27th—Registration opened for School Year 1950-51.

May 5th—Lag B'omer Picnic, School Auditorium, under leadership of Mr. Barney Ains.

May 16th—Shovuo Assembly—Original Hebrew play presented by 7th Grade.

May 17th—P.T.A. Meeting—Nomination and election of officers for P.T.A. School Year 1950-51.

June 14th—Graduation—Graduating class presented two original plays; one in English and one in Hebrew.

June 16th—School closes.

Sept. 11th—School opens.

Sept. 18th—P.T.A. Meeting to welcome Mrs. Anna S. Lesser, new Director of Center Academy—Miss Bush spoke on the philosophy of the school—Dr. Solomon J. Miller also addressed the meeting.

Sept. 29th—Succoth celebration and children's assembly in Center Academy Succa on roof.

Oct. 12th—Columbus Day Assembly.

Oct. 18th—Classroom meeting—Program of year set before the parents.

Oct. 23rd—8th Grade children and teachers left for a three-day trip to Boston and Newport.

Nov. 10th—School Assembly to commemorate Armistice Day.

Nov. 14th—P.T.A. Meeting—Speaker: Dr. Azriel Eisenberg, Executive Vice-President of Jewish Education Committee, on "Your School, Your Home and You"—Mrs. Lesser also addressed group on the creative writing and progress of the children in the school.

Nov. 22nd—Thanksgiving Day Assembly—All grades participated in a program of drama and music.

Nov. 30th—Film and talk by Dr. Samuel Fields to mothers and girls of 6th, 7th and 8th Grades.

Dec. 5th—Chanukah Assembly—Original Hebrew play presented by 6th Grade.

Dec. 6th—P.T.A. Gala Chanukah Festival—Square Dance and refreshments.

Dec. 19th—Student Council party in school.



Dec. 20th—P.T.A. Meeting—Jewish Book Exhibit—Debate by graduating class on "Atomic Energy—Yes or No?"

### CENTER CLUBS

**YOUNG MARRIED GROUP**—Social and cultural activities. Meets monthly.

**YOUNG FOLKS' LEAGUE**—Unmarried Center members as well as children of members, men over 21 years and girls over 18 years.

**JUNIOR LEAGUE**—Boys and girls of college age. Meets every Thursday night. Mr. Joseph H. Aaron, Leader.

**INTA-LEAGUE**—Boys and girls in junior and senior years of high school. Cultural athletic and social program. Meets every Saturday night. Mr. and Mrs. Alvin H. Goldberg, Leaders.

**JUNIOR INTA-LEAGUE**—Boys and girls in the first and second year of high school. Mr. Daniel Pressner, Leader.

**SHOMRIM**—Boys in the first two years of high school. Young Judean and athletic activities. Meets every Saturday night. Mr. Joseph H. Aaron, Leader.

**VIVALETS**—Girls in the upper grades. Young Judean and social program. Meets every Saturday night. Miss Florence Rappaport, Leader.

**TZOFIM and MACCABEES**—Boys in elementary school. Young Judean and athletic program. Meets every Saturday night. Mr. William Rosenthal, Arthur Vidors and Stanley Green, Leaders.

**CANDLE-LITES**—Girls up to 11. Games, Arts and Crafts. Meets every Saturday night. Miss Leanne Levine, Leader.

#### GIRL SCOUT TROOPS

Mr. Alvin Goldberg, Athletic Director.  
Mr. Donald Adolph, Swimming Instructor.

Center Clubs are open to the children of Center members and to the students of Center schools. The clubs are guided by expert leaders under the supervision of Rabbi Saltzman.

## APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following have applied for membership in the Brooklyn Jewish Center:

**CHEROFF, MISS EVE**  
Res. 124 Rockaway Pkwy.  
**GILBERT, MURRAY**  
Res. 1507 President St.  
Bus. Retail, 72-36 Main St.  
Married  
Proposed by Lou Frank,  
Sidney A. Gold  
**HARRISON, EMANUEL**  
Res. 900 Eastern Pkwy.  
Bus. Office Assistant, 14 Wall St.  
Married  
Proposed by Selig J. Harrison,  
Joseph Goldberg  
**KLEINMAN, MISS TOBIE**  
Res. 346 New York Ave.  
**MACY, MISS MYRA**  
Res. 8630—23rd Ave.  
Proposed by Beverly Pintel,  
Edith Zuckerman  
**MANN, SIDNEY I.**  
Res. 540 St. Johns Pl.  
Bus. Mimeograph, 153 Pierrepont St.  
Married  
Proposed by Joseph Levy, Jr.  
**PORT, BARRET**  
Res. 921 Montgomery St.  
Bus. Banking, 1756 Pitkin Ave.  
Married  
Proposed by Nathan Rothstein,  
Dave Rosen  
**ROBERTS, DANIEL K.**  
Res. 2376—83rd St.  
Bus. Air Conditioning, 15 St. Marks Pl.  
Single  
Proposed by Martin Karlin,  
Irvin I. Rubin  
**SOMMER, LEO**  
Res. 736 Willoughby Ave.  
Bus. Machinery, 1267 Flushing Ave.  
Single  
**STRAUS, ALFRED**  
Res. 80 Clarkson Ave.

Bus. Internal Revenue, 1 Hanson Pl.  
Married  
Proposed by Elmer Riffman  
**ZIMMERMAN, SIDNEY**  
Res. 1785 Park Pl.  
Bus. Post Office, Washington Ave.  
Single  
Proposed by Jack Sirowitz,  
Bernie Braverman

The following have applied for reinstatement:

**BURKE, RALPH**  
Res. 1057-07—66th Rd.  
Bus. Motor Sales, 95-07 Jamaica Ave.  
Married  
Proposed by Max Mendelsohn  
**EISENBERG, GEORGE H.**  
Res. 746 Lenox Rd.  
Bus. Mfg., 456—4th Ave.  
Married  
Proposed by Archie Latto,  
James J. Jackman  
**LEVINE, ROBERT**  
Res. 250 E. 96th St.  
Bus. Accountant  
Single  
**THUN, MISS BELLE**  
Res. 1901—84th St.  
Proposed by Belle Wegbreit  
**THUN, MISS IRENE R.**  
Res. 1901—84th St.  
Proposed by Belle Wegbreit

### Additional Applications:

**ALEXANDER, DAVID**  
Res. 659 Hawthorne Street  
Bus. Attorney, C.P.A., 270 B'way  
Married  
Proposed by Daniel Katz  
**HABER, MARK**  
Res. 363 Vernon Ave.  
Bus. Food, 1205 Whitlock Ave.  
Married  
**HARRIS, MARTIN**  
Res. 280 East 21st St.  
Bus. Attorney, 280 Broadway  
Single  
Proposed by Daniel Katz

### Reinstatements:

**FELDSOTT, HARRY**  
Res. 558 Snediker Ave.  
Bus. Furrier, 259 W. 30th St.  
Single  
**GLASER, SEYMOUR**  
Res. 1240 Union St.  
Single

SAMUEL H. GOLDBERG,  
Chairman, Membership Committee.

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## SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP FOR 1950

The following is a list of the 1950 sustaining members of the Brooklyn Jewish Center. We are thankful to them for their fine spirit of cooperation and loyalty in voluntarily paying the higher rate of membership.

Aaron, Mrs. Hyman  
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Jablow, George  
Jackson, Harry  
Kamenetzky, Samuel  
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## VICTOR HUGO MISUNDERSTOOD JEWS

(Continued from page 9)

inaccuracies and religious prejudice in "Cromwell." His faults have often been dwelt upon—his egotism, his rhetoric, his confusion of thought, his changes in points of view, and the delinquencies in his sexual life. An American college professor has written a most unfair and savage attack upon his work in which every phase of his art and thought as reflected in his poetry is violently censured. The book is a product of a school of thought that maligns any writer who does not accept Christian dogma as Hugo did not. He is hated by the clericals as Zola is. The professor finds fault with him because as a liberal he had good words for the rational eighteenth century, for the French Revolution and for Napoleon, and because he questioned theological arguments that date back to the middle ages. Hugo undoubtedly was overestimated in

his day. We may concede his faults in art, but we do not repudiate him simply because he does not combine humanitarianism with Christianity, and we forgive his libel upon Menasseh for his Torquemada.

For Jews to fall in with the enemies of progress who shudder at Hugo's name, to condemn the Hugo who championed democracy and risked fame, fortune and life to attack the dictatorship of Napoleon the Third, would be against their own traditions. They should no more withhold their admiration from this great novelist and poet because of his libel of Menasseh ben Israel than refuse to read and love Shakespeare and Dickens in spite of Shylock and Fagin. Hugo is still widely read today and no Babbits who hate romanticism and realism can topple him from his pedestal.

## GRANDFATHER AND CALAMITY JANE

(Continued from page 6)

his plane into the wind.

"When did you learn about airplanes?" said Mendel.

"I read a book about it last week," replied Avraham, relighting his pipe.

Mendel clicked his tongue. "A man of your age and with such thick glasses shouldn't do any reading whatsoever."

"So what's so terrible? So I'm an old man. Is that such a special title that, 'old man'?"

"There's no need to get excited. I only—"

"You only make a pest of yourself," put in Avraham quickly and sharply.

"Me? I make a pest of myself!"

"Yes. I think you like your old age because it gives you something to brag about."

"OY, Avraham. If only you had my pains!"

"Your pains! I also woke up with a cramp, and because it's going to rain my leg hurts me. So what should I do?"

"A man your age should—"

"A man my age! With you it's the same old story!"

"Look how excited he is!"

"The trouble with you, Mendel, is not only are you afraid of death, but you are also afraid of life."

"You see," said Mendel, "you try to

help him and he throws it in your face. I'm through. Finished!"

"Sit down, Mendel," said Avraham, and he placed his hand on his friend's arm.

"No!" Mendel pulled his arm away. "I'm finished!"

"Now who's excited?"

"I'm excited and it's your fault. Tonight I will be sick and it will be your fault."

"Don't talk so much of sickness!"

"What would you like me to talk about?"

"Anything but sickness."

"Ah ha! So that's what you're afraid of!"

"OY Mendel, you are a *mesbuginer*."

"Insult me some more!" said Mendel. "Call me names!"

"Mendel, you are a Calamity Jane."

"Cal—? What's that?"

"It tells you in this book," said Avraham, and he took a book from the pocket of his alpaca coat and gave it to Mendel.

Mendel put on his glasses and read aloud the title of the book, "Exciting Dime Western Stories." He snorted and returned the book to Avraham. But Avraham was out on the lawn flying the airplane with his grandson.

## FORECASTS IN ZIONIST AFFAIRS

(Continued from page 5)

the basis of a positive plan of action: if such are the objective circumstances, then specific measures must be taken to make up for the external pressures which are, fortunately, absent. It might be unduly sanguine to believe that a more positive attitude on the part of some Zionist leaders would have resulted in mass immigration from the English-speaking countries, and especially from America. But it is not too much to say that their attitude so far has not encouraged anyone to come to this country.

In the sphere of both fund-raising and immigration, the English-speaking Jewries have a historic opportunity. Whatever the future may have in store for the world, we have been granted a valuable breathing-space. The Jewish people must take the fullest and quickest advantage of it by providing the maximum of material help and manpower, so as to brace Israel to withstand the hurricane that threatens to be let loose.

## First Aid Course Planned

The Center is planning to conduct an American Red Cross Standard First-Aid course in the near future. The instructor will be Dr. Henry Desatnek, and the course will consist of nine two-hour sessions for a period of nine weeks, beginning Thursday evening, March 1st at 8:30.

Center members and non-members who are interested will please register at the Center information desk. (Telephone HY 3-8800.)

## Inta League News

The programs for the Inta League in the past few weeks included a Basketball game and Dance held on January 13th. Jewish Music Month was celebrated on January 20th. Myron Gubitz, Accordionist, conducted a program of Israeli songs. Members of the group danced the Horah to the tune of the accordion. Social dancing and games were featured on January 27th. The Israeli movie "Home in the Desert," was shown at the meeting on February 3rd. The usual social dancing concluded all meetings.

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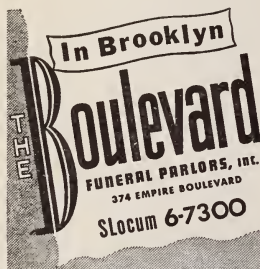
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